W.i.t.c.h.

Will Irma Taranee Cornelia Hay Lin

13

Part V.
The Book of Elements
Volume 1

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

Disney COMICS

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Volume 1

W.i.t.c.h.

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Part V.
The Book of Elements
Volume I

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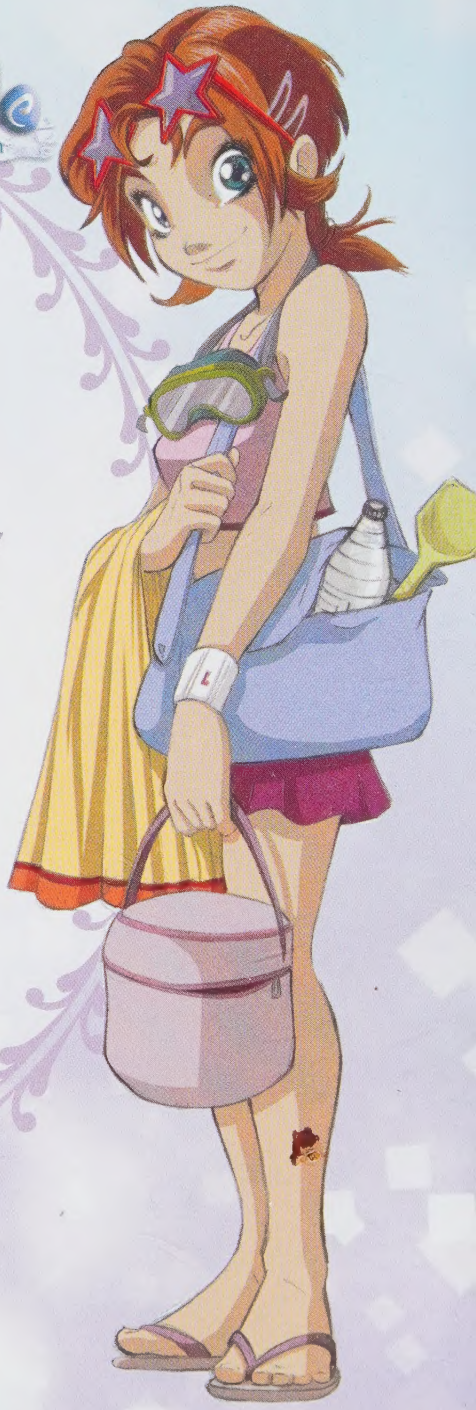
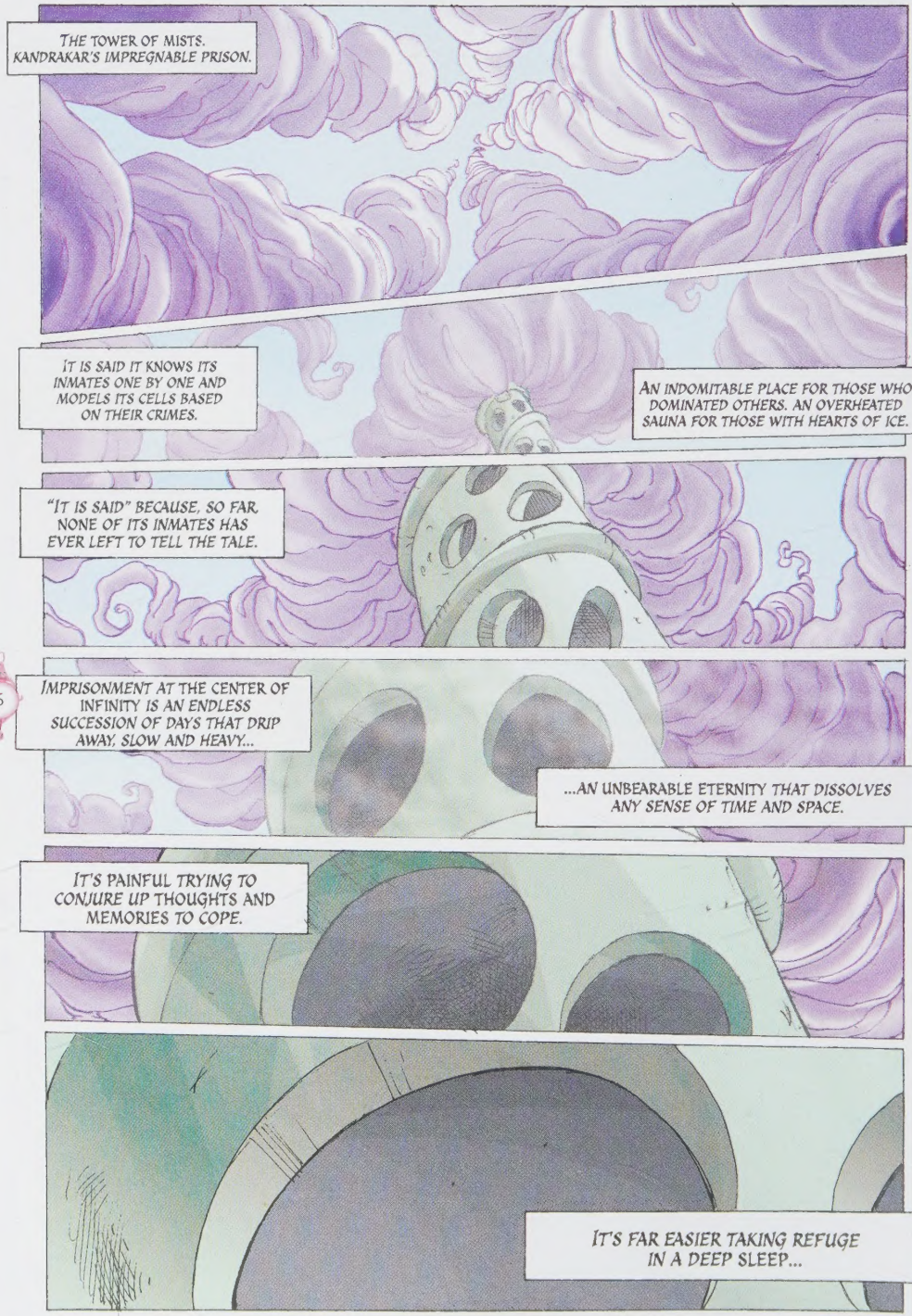
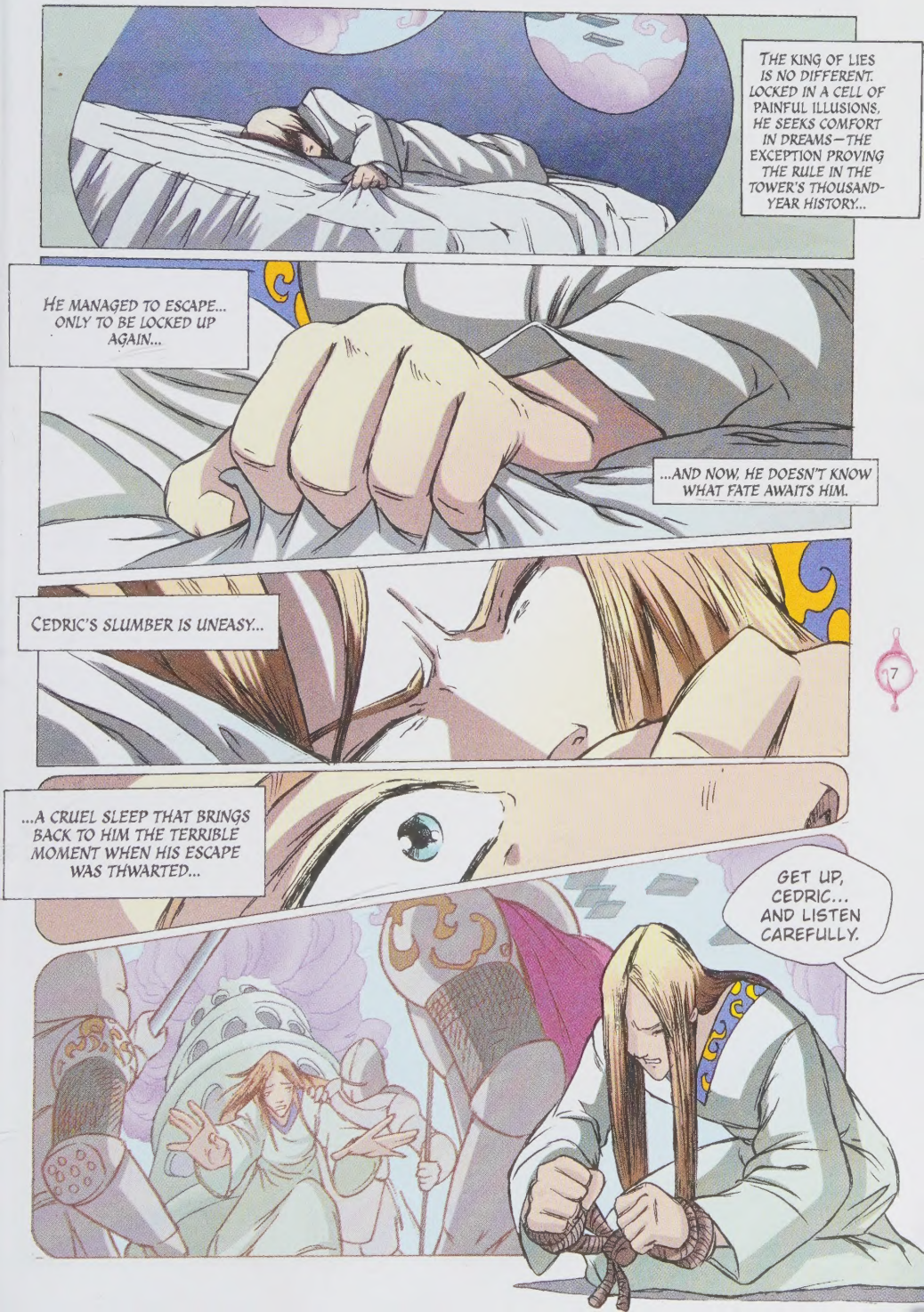


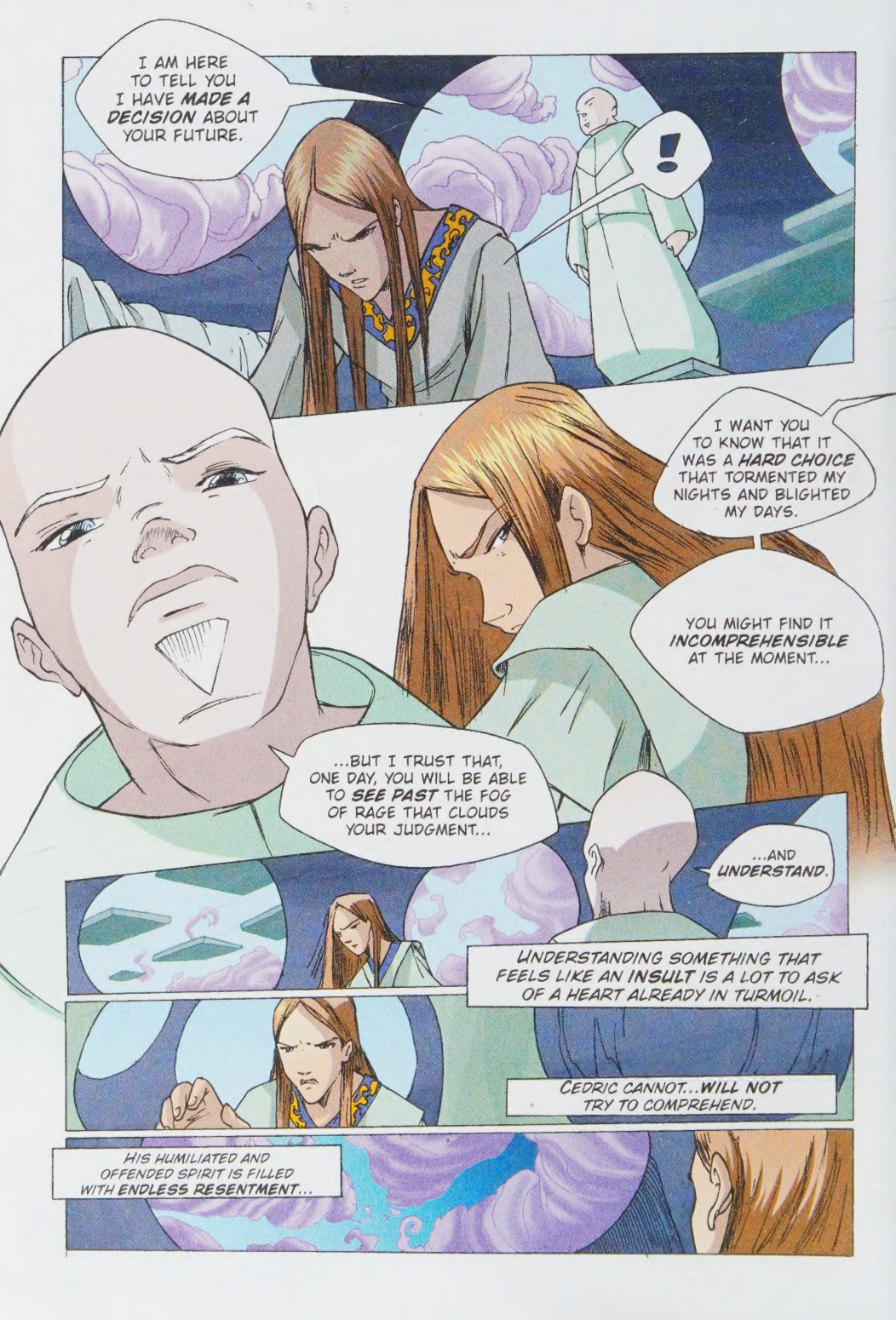
Between Dream and Reality

"A true warrior knows when she needs help."

Witch
Will
Irma
Taranee
Cornelia
Hay Lin


THE TOWER OF MISTS. KANDRAKAR'S IMPREGNABLE PRISON.
IT IS SAID IT KNOWS ITS INMATES ONE BY ONE AND MODELS ITS CELLS BASED ON THEIR CRIMES.
AN INDOMITABLE PLACE FOR THOSE WHO DOMINATED OTHERS. AN OVERHEATED SAUNA FOR THOSE WITH HEARTS OF ICE.
"IT IS SAID" BECAUSE, SO FAR, NONE OF ITS INMATES HAS EVER LEFT TO TELL THE TALE.
IMPRISONMENT AT THE CENTER OF INFINITY IS AN ENDLESS SUCCESSION OF DAYS THAT DRIP AWAY, SLOW AND HEAVY...
...AN UNBEARABLE ETERNITY THAT DISSOLVES ANY SENSE OF TIME AND SPACE.
IT'S PAINFUL TRYING TO CONJURE UP THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES TO COPE.
IT'S FAR EASIER TAKING REFUGE IN A DEEP SLEEP...


THE KING OF LIES IS NO DIFFERENT. LOCKED IN A CELL OF PAINFUL ILLUSIONS, HE SEEKS COMFORT IN DREAMS—THE EXCEPTION PROVING THE RULE IN THE TOWER'S THOUSAND-YEAR HISTORY...
HE MANAGED TO ESCAPE... ONLY TO BE LOCKED UP AGAIN...
...AND NOW, HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT FATE AWAITS HIM.
CEDRIC'S SLUMBER IS UNEASY...
...A CRUEL SLEEP THAT BRINGS BACK TO HIM THE TERRIBLE MOMENT WHEN HIS ESCAPE WAS THWARTED...
GET UP, CEDRIC... AND LISTEN CAREFULLY.


I AM HERE TO TELL YOU I HAVE MADE A DECISION ABOUT YOUR FUTURE.
!
I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT IT WAS A HARD CHOICE THAT TORMENTED MY NIGHTS AND BLIGHTED MY DAYS.
YOU MIGHT FIND IT INCOMPREHENSIBLE AT THE MOMENT...
...BUT I TRUST THAT, ONE DAY, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE PAST THE FOG OF RAGE THAT CLOUDS YOUR JUDGMENT...
...AND UNDERSTAND.
UNDERSTANDING SOMETHING THAT FEELS LIKE AN INSULT IS A LOT TO ASK OF A HEART ALREADY IN TURMOIL.
CEDRIC CANNOT...WILL NOT TRY TO COMPREHEND.
HIS HUMILIATED AND OFFENDED SPIRIT IS FILLED WITH ENDLESS RESENTMENT...

ENDLESS...
...LIKE THE UNIVERSE!
MYRIAD GALAXIES, MADE OF BILLIONS OF STARS, PLANETS, NEBULAE, AND BLACK HOLES...
DID YOU KNOW THAT BLACK HOLES ARE LIKE GAPING VOIDS IN SPACE AND ABSORB GAS FROM THE STARS AROUND THEM?
UM...NO! I ADMIT THERE'S A...BLACK HOLE IN MY BRAIN!
...AND THAT THERE ARE HUGE GALAXIES THAT CONTAIN UP TO A THOUSAND BILLION STARS?
WE JUST KNOW A FRACTION OF THE INFINITE SPACE AROUND US...THE EXPLORATION WILL GO ON FOREVER!

MAYBE ONE DAY, WE'LL HAVE TELESCOPES POWERFUL ENOUGH TO LET US SEE EVEN FARTHER!
...AND THAT DAY YOU'LL BE A GREAT ASTRONOMER, FAMOUS AND IMPORTANT LIKE YOUR GRANDFATHER!
LIVING AT THE OBSERVATORY IS A GOOD STARTING POINT FOR BECOMING A SCIENTIST, ISN'T IT?
YEAH... A SCIENTIST, SURE...
AN ASTRONOMER... MAYBE...
?
ERIC?
DAD AND I ARE READY. WE'LL GIVE YOU A LIFT WHEREVER YOU WANT.
COOL! WHADDAYA SAY, HAY LIN?
ARE YOU OKAY?
Y-YES...
MILK

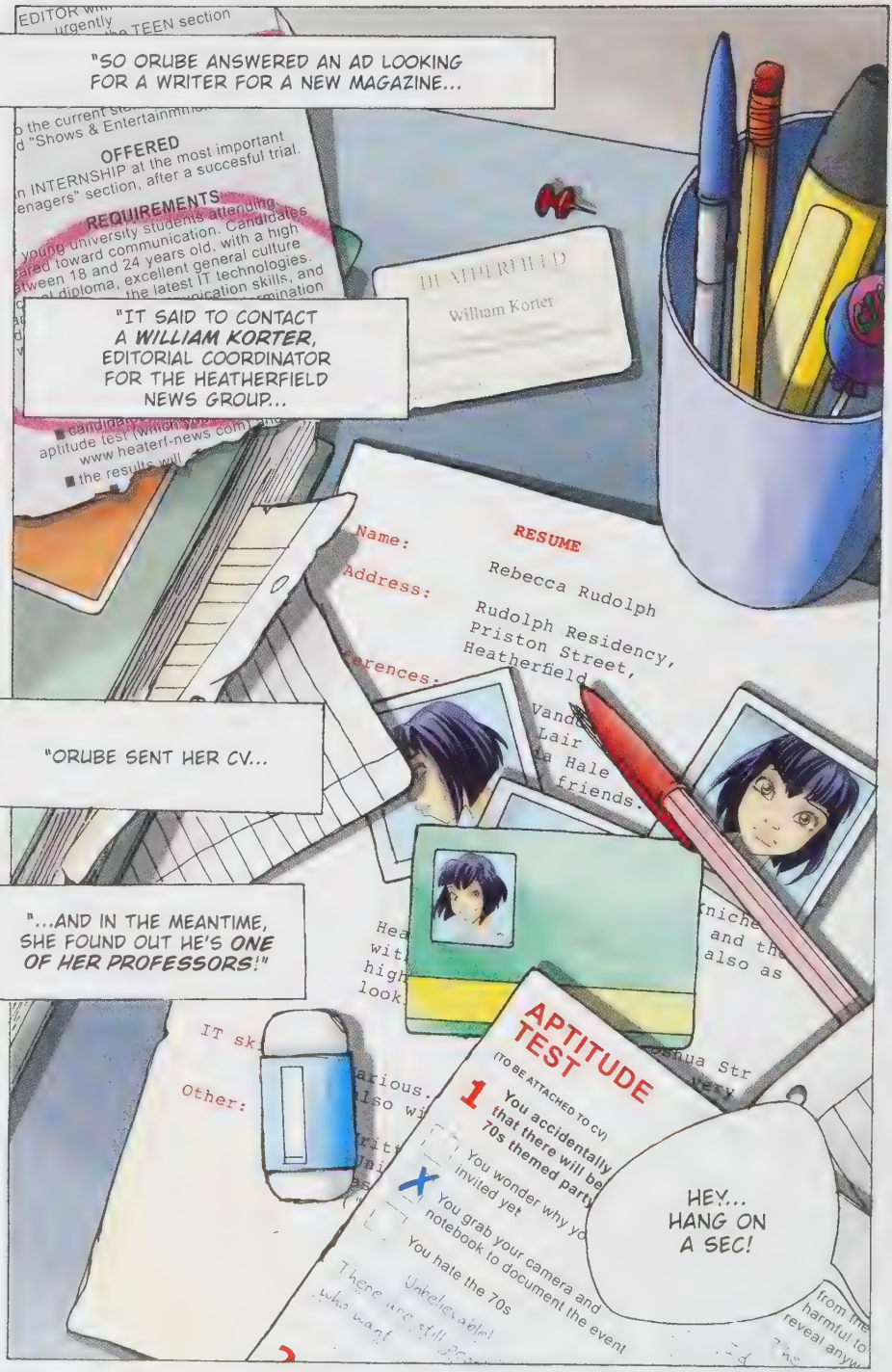
"THEN LET'S GO!"
HONEY...DID I TELL YOU WE SHOULD GET AN ANSWER FROM *OPEN HILL UNIVERSITY* IN A FEW DAYS?
THEY ACCEPTED YOUR APPLICATION?
THEY'RE CONSIDERING IT...
...BUT I'M SURE THEY'LL HAVE NO DOUBT WHEN THEY SEE *YOUR MOM'S PHOTO* ATTACHED TO THE DOCUMENTS!
DON'T MIND HIM, HAY LIN. CHARLES LIKES TO JOKE AROUND.
I'M SERIOUS! LOUISE LYNDON'S CHARM IS RENOWNED AMONG ACADEMICS THE WORLD OVER... AND I SHOULD KNOW!
OPEN HILL...THAT'S NOT TOO FAR FROM HEATHERFIELD, RIGHT?
A FEW *HUNDRED MILES*. IT'S AN EXCELLENT UNIVERSITY...
...AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT OFFERS A GENEROUS *GRANT* THAT WOULD ALLOW US TO COMPLETE THE RESEARCH WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON FOR YEARS!

THAT WOULD BE AWESOME... I REALLY HOPE YOU GET THE PLACE!
BUT... THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU REALLY WANT, IS IT?
HOW COME YOU NEVER MENTIONED SOMETHING SO IMPORTANT TO ME?
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON? AGAIN THIS NAUSEOUS FEELING IN THE PIT OF MY STOMACH!
IT'S NOT JUST PHYSICAL... I'VE NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE!
IT'S MORE...THE FEELING SOMETHING WEIRD'S IN THE AIR! SOMETHING HIDDEN, ELUSIVE...
...AS IF, FOR SOME REASON, I CAN SENSE YOU'RE NOT TELLING THE WHOLE TRUTH, ERIC!
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT, BUT I'M SURE I'M RIGHT... AND IT HURTS.

*SEE W.I.T.C.H. CHAPTER 48

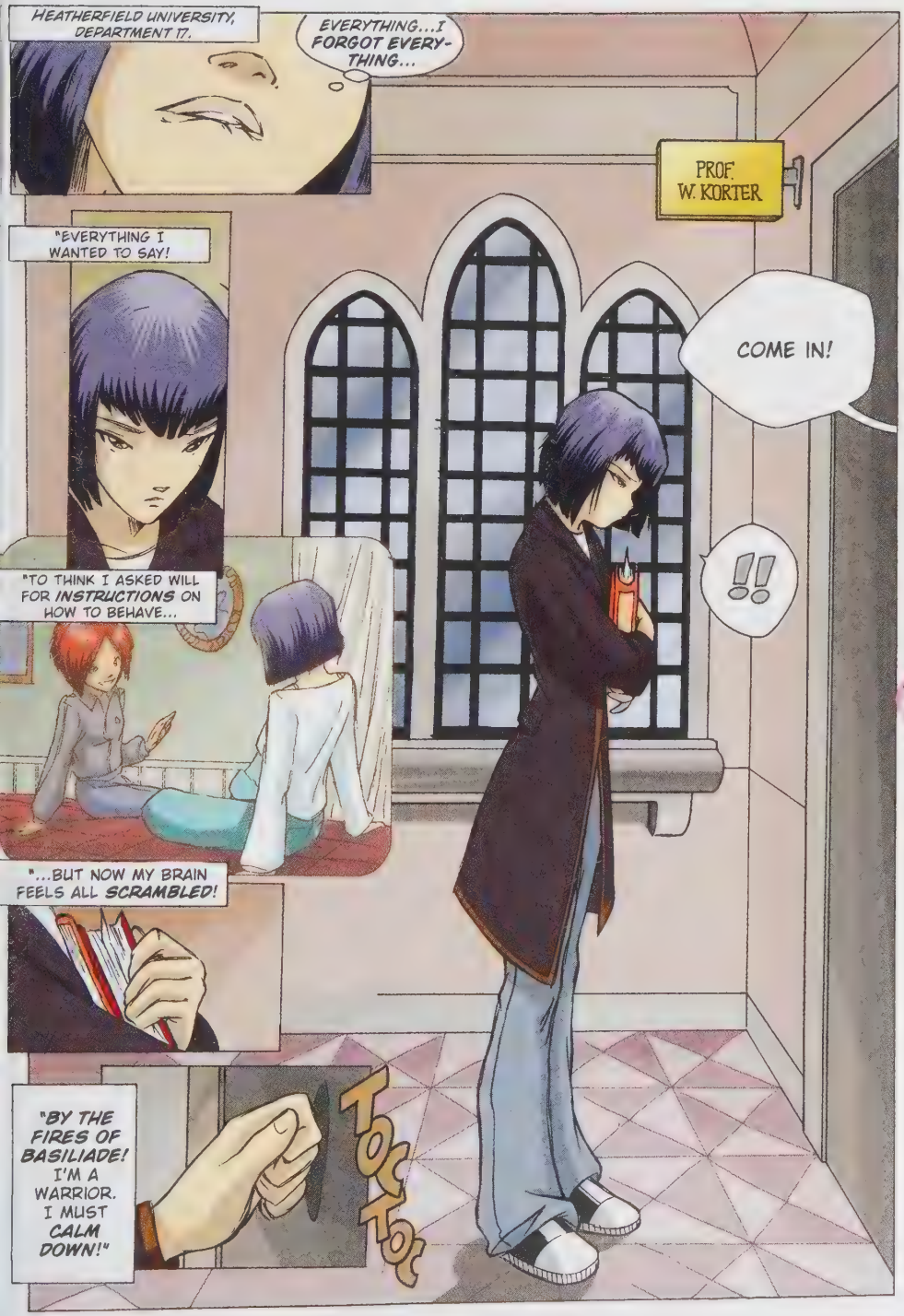
WHAT? WHAT'D I SAY?
WHOOPS! You think she heard me?
YA THINK, MISS MEGAPHONE-MOUTH?
WHATEVER. MAYBE THE DIVA WILL HOP OFF HER PEDESTAL...
ANYWAY, YOU CAN SHOW HER WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF AT THE AUDITION TODAY!
BY THE WAY... WHAT TIME SHOULD WE BE THINKING ABOUT YOU?
THE AUDITIONS START RIGHT AFTER SCHOOL... I WON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO GO HOME FIRST AND...
UM...SPEAKING OF AUDITIONS...
IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK IF I SAY...THE WHOLE AFTER-NOON?

...I WONDER HOW ORUBE'S DOING!
WHY? SHE TAKING PART IN A CAT SHOW?
PFFFT!
YOU CLEARLY DON'T REMEMBER SHE ANSWERED AN AD IN THE HEATHER-FIELD NEWS!
UH...NO! MUSTA DELETED THE INFO TO MAKE ROOM FOR THAT SPAGHETTI CARBONARA RECIPE!
BUT...YOU DO REMEMBER SHE STARTED AT UNIVERSITY, RIGHT?
INSIGNIFICANT DETAIL, SINCE SHE DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO INTRODUCE US TO HER NEW CLASS-MATES...
...ESPECIALLY THE CUTE ONES, OBVIOUSLY!
OKAY, OKAY! RECAP FOR THOSE WHO MISSED IT: ORUBE IS STUDYING JOURNAL-ISM...
...SO SHE'S BEEN CHECKING THE PAPERS FOR JOBS...
...BECAUSE SHE NEEDS MORE MONEY THAN SHE EARNS AT MR. OLSEN'S PET SHOP... =CRUNCH=
CRONCH
WELL, IT'S JUST FOR A FEW HOURS A DAY...
BESIDES... MAYBE SHE WANTS TO HANG OUT WITH PEOPLE HER OWN AGE!
UM... CAN I FINISH?


"SO ORUBE ANSWERED AN AD LOOKING FOR A WRITER FOR A NEW MAGAZINE...
"IT SAID TO CONTACT A WILLIAM KORTER, EDITORIAL COORDINATOR FOR THE HEATHERFIELD NEWS GROUP...
"ORUBE SENT HER CV...
"...AND IN THE MEANTIME, SHE FOUND OUT HE'S ONE OF HER PROFESSORS!"
HEY... HANG ON A SEC!
EDITOR
TEEN section
OFFERED
REQUIREMENTS
William Korter
RESUME
Name:
Rebecca Rudolph
Address:
Rudolph Residency, Priston Street, Heatherfield
APTITUDE TEST
(TO BE ATTACHED TO CV)
1
You accidentally
that there will be
70s themed party
You wonder why yo
invited yet
You grab your camera and
notebook to document the event
You hate the 70s
Other:

YOU SAID ORUBE SENT HER CV? I CAN TOTALLY SEE IT...
"BASILIADE CAT SPECIALIZED IN HIGH-RISK MISSIONS ON ALIEN WORLDS..."
COME ON, IRMA. DON'T BE SO BITTER! HAVE SOME FAITH.
FAITH? IN ORUBE? I HAVE LOADS! AFTER ALL, OUT OF ALL THE CATS I KNOW, SHE'S MY FAVORITE!
BUT YOU CAN NEVER TRUST THOSE SUPER-SERIOUS PROFESSORS.
THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG!
LOOKS LIKE KORTER REALLY LIKED ORUBE'S PRESENTATION.
THEN HE MUST BE ONE WEIRD DUDE.
YEAH...SO WEIRD HE ALREADY ASKED HER TO WRITE SOMETHING FOR THE NEW MAGAZINE... A FEATURE ABOUT CITY GANGS...
UH-OH! YOU THINK ORUBE MENTIONED US?

I HAVE NO IDEA, BUT I KNOW KORTER REALLY LIKED THE ARTICLE.
THEN SHE DID TALK ABOUT US!
HE CALLED HER FOR A MEETING THIS MORNING.
GREAT!
COOL!
YAY!
WELL, I'M SURE ORUBE WILL DO GREAT...
DRIIIING..
...JUST LIKE OUR PROFESSIONAL DANCER!
SEE YA AFTER CLASS, GUYS!
BYE! SEE YA!
HMM... DON'T COUNT YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY HATCH!
TARA... WAIT!
I ALMOST FORGOT...
?


HEATHERFIELD UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT 17.
EVERYTHING...I FORGOT EVERY-THING...
PROF. W. KORTER
"EVERYTHING I WANTED TO SAY!
COME IN!
!!
"TO THINK I ASKED WILL FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO BEHAVE...
"...BUT NOW MY BRAIN FEELS ALL SCRAMBLED!
"BY THE FIRES OF BASILIADE! I'M A WARRIOR. I MUST CALM DOWN!"
TOC TOC

COME ON!
YOU CAN DO IT... AT LEAST GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT!
AAARGH, WHO AM I KIDDING? MY LEGS ARE SHAKING! I'LL JUST LOOK RIDICULOUS IN FRONT OF JENSEN, THE SELECTION BOARD, AND...
TARANEE!
SHEILA!
Sheffield Institute
MAN, I'M FREAKING OUT!
YOU'RE GOING TO DANCE SCHOOL, RIGHT? I'M COMING WITH YOU!

THE AUDITION! I'VE BEEN REHEARSING FOR WEEKS. DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE NOT WORRIED!
SURE, BUT... I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD BE TOO...
WHAT? THOUGHT YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE AUDITIONING? SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BUT THE SCHOOL'S GONNA BE PACKED!
THAT'S NOT IT... I JUST...
OKAY, DON'T BEAT AROUND THE BUSH. YOU THOUGHT JENSEN'S DAUGHTER WOULD AUTOMATICALLY GET A PLACE IN THE COURSE, DIDN'T YOU?
TONK
ARE YOU KIDDING? IT MAKES ME EVEN MORE NERVOUS! HIS EYES ON ME, FULL OF EXPECTATIONS!
...BUT YOUR DAD IS ON THE SELECTION BOARD, RIGHT? DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER?
WELL, BIG MISTAKE! I'VE ALWAYS EARNED MY SUCCESSES!
SORRY, BUT YEAH, I DID THINK THAT...
AND... I DON'T WANNA THINK ABOUT HOW DISAPPOINTED HE'D BE IF I DIDN'T PASS THE AUDITION.
YOU SURE ARE WEIRD! SOMETIMES SO TOUGH... THEN SUDDENLY, SO FRAGILE...

LOOK! I GET GOOSE BUMPS JUST THINKING ABOUT IT!
...OTHER TIMES, EVEN FUNNY!
NO, NO PRIVILEGES! THE ONLY ALLOWANCE IS THAT I GET TO AUDITION FIRST, WHILE THE REST GO IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.
THAT'S STILL SOMETHING.
YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU'RE RIGHT! THAT'S SOMETHING.
WHY NOT? I'M A BIT HUNGRY...
WANT HALF A SNACK? I BROUGHT IT WITH ME, BUT MY STOMACH'S ALL KNOTTED UP...

Ye Olde Bookshop
CLOSED
CLOSED
OPEN

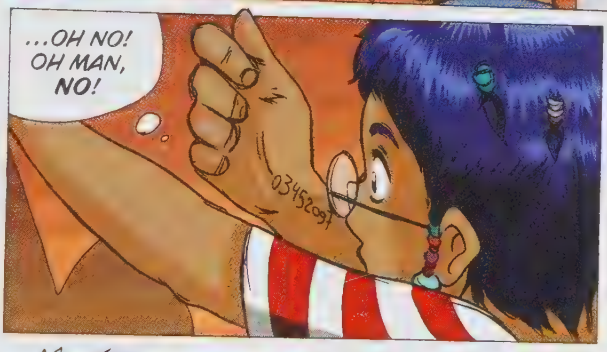
LATER THAT AFTERNOON
OPEN...
I SLIDE MY FOOT ACROSS THE FLOOR...
CLOSED...
...WHOOOPS!
GREAT, TARANEE! IF YOU WANTED TO GO UNNOTICED, YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG!
PHEEEW! ♫ LOOKS LIKE NOBODY SAW ME. THEY'RE ALL LOST IN THEIR THOUGHTS...

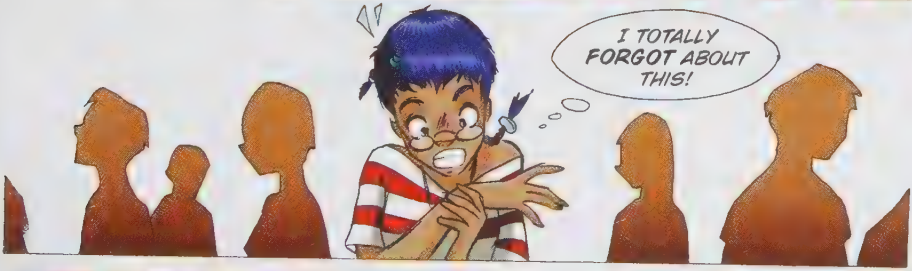
THEY'RE ONLY UP TO LETTER B. IT'LL BE AT LEAST ANOTHER COUPLE HOURS...
...ARTICHOKES, EGGS, POTATOES, AND...OOF, WHAT ELSE DID SHE ASK ME TO BUY?
TH-THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...
IF I PASS THIS AUDITION, I PROMISE I'LL CLEAN MY ROOM...
I'M STARVING! SKIPPING LUNCH WAS A BAD IDEA...
...I SAW HOW HE LOOKED AT HER! HE HAS SOME EXPLAINING TO DO TONIGHT!
...AND TOMORROW THE GREEK TEST...
GROW
DANCIN

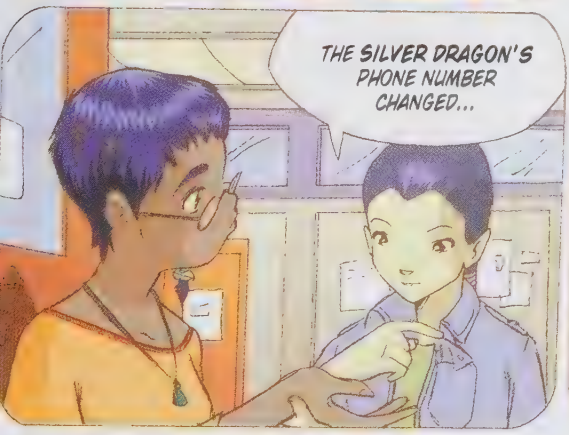
NOBODY'S TALKING, BUT I...I CAN HEAR THEIR THOUGHTS!
DON'T BE ABSURD. SURE, YOU HAVE TELEPATHY, BUT IT ONLY WORKS WITH W.I.T.C.H.!
YET...YET I HEAR A BUZZ, THEN SOMETIMES...KEY WORDS...CLEARER THOUGHTS...
...WHAT IF I STARTED TAKING TENNIS CLASSES?
...THOSE BOOTS WERE CHEAPER...
YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING THINGS. YOU'RE TENSE, NERVOUS... YOU'RE ABOUT TO FACE A TOUGH CHALLENGE AND...
YOU MEAN IT'S NOT TRUE? I'M MAKING IT UP? NO, IT CAN'T BE. I CAN'T EXPLAIN, BUT THIS...
SALLY CARTER!
...THIS IS REAL!
CARTER... COOK...IT'S ALMOST MY TURN, UGH!

OOF!
CALM!
I HAVE TO
STAY CALM...

BREATHE
NORMALLY
AND DON'T
PANIC...


...OH NO!
OH MAN,
NO!

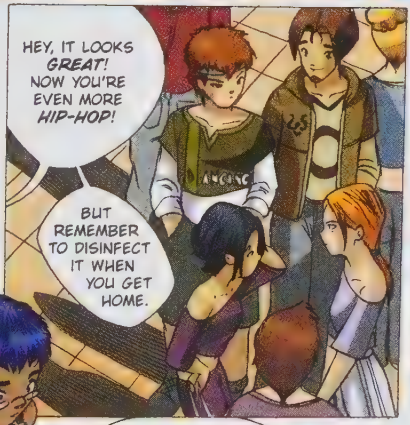

I TOTALLY
FORGOT ABOUT
THIS!

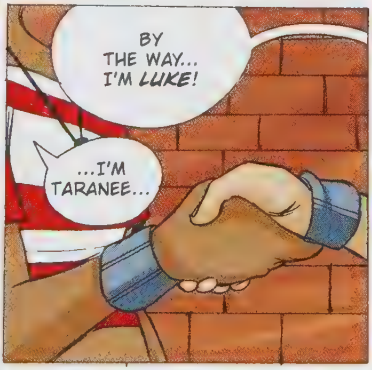

THE SILVER DRAGON'S
PHONE NUMBER
CHANGED...

HERE. SO YOU
CAN CALL ME WHEN
YOU'RE DONE TO
TELL ME HOW
IT WENT!

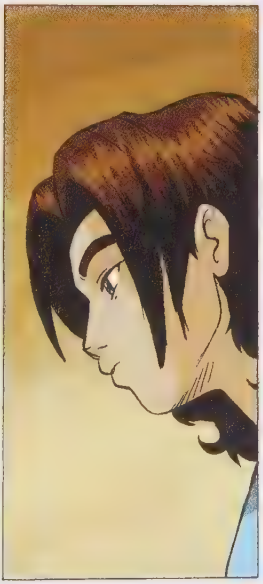
I HAVE TO RUB THIS OFF, OR I'LL LOOK RIDICULOUS!
OUCH! NOW IT'S BURNING! I MADE IT WORSE!
IT'S USELESS, YOU KNOW. IT'S PERMANENT MARKER...
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL GET IT OFF SO EASILY!
WHAT?
DID...DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
ACTUALLY, NO...
...I WAS JUST THINKING TO MYSELF. I NOTICED YOU WERE HAVING TROUBLE AND...
OUCH, YOU RUBBED THAT HARD! IT ALMOST LOOKS LIKE A BURN.
OH, NOT AGAIN! I HEARD HIS VOICE BEFORE HE SPOKE AND NOW...NOW THIS! WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? I HURT MYSELF!
HERE!

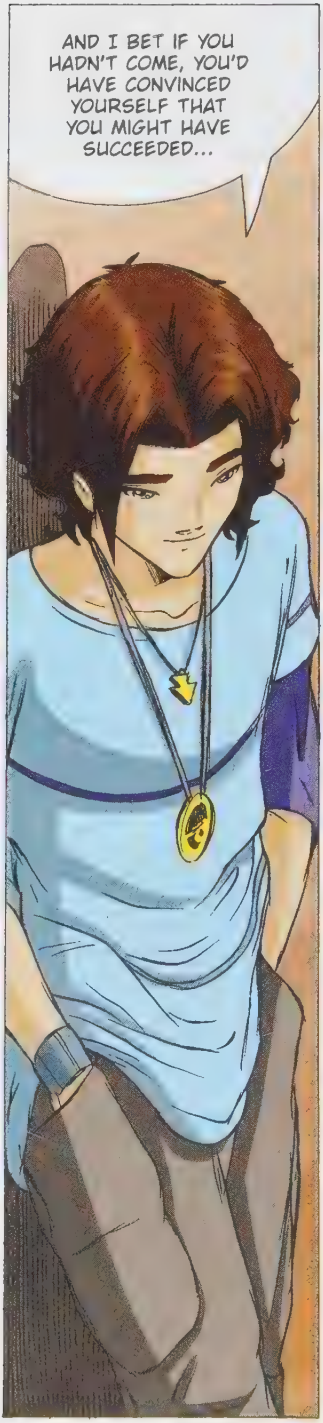
PUT THIS ON. IT SHOULD COVER THE RED PART.
UH? TH-THANKS...


HEY, IT LOOKS GREAT! NOW YOU'RE EVEN MORE HIP-HOP!
BUT REMEMBER TO DISINFECT IT WHEN YOU GET HOME.


BY THE WAY... I'M LUKE!
...I'M TARANEE...

A STUBBORN IDIOT WHO ENDED UP IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME HERE!
HMM... COSMIC PESSIMISM?
SIMPLE REALISM! NO POINT TAKING ON A CHALLENGE YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T WIN!




AND I BET IF YOU HADN'T COME, YOU'D HAVE CONVINCED YOURSELF THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE SUCCEEDED...

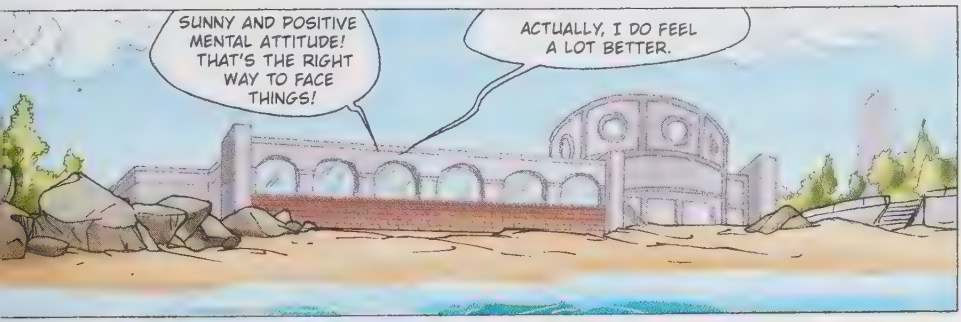
ANYWAY, NO POINT WORRYING ABOUT IT NOW...

LET'S FACE THE MUSIC...
AND...

...DANCE.

AH
AH
AH

SEE? NOW YOU'RE READY TO KNOCK THE SOCKS OFF THE BOARD!
?


SUNNY AND POSITIVE MENTAL ATTITUDE! THAT'S THE RIGHT WAY TO FACE THINGS!
ACTUALLY, I DO FEEL A LOT BETTER.

I'M GOING IN THERE AND SHOWING THEM WHAT I CAN DO!
GREAT! AFTER ALL, I COULD TELL...

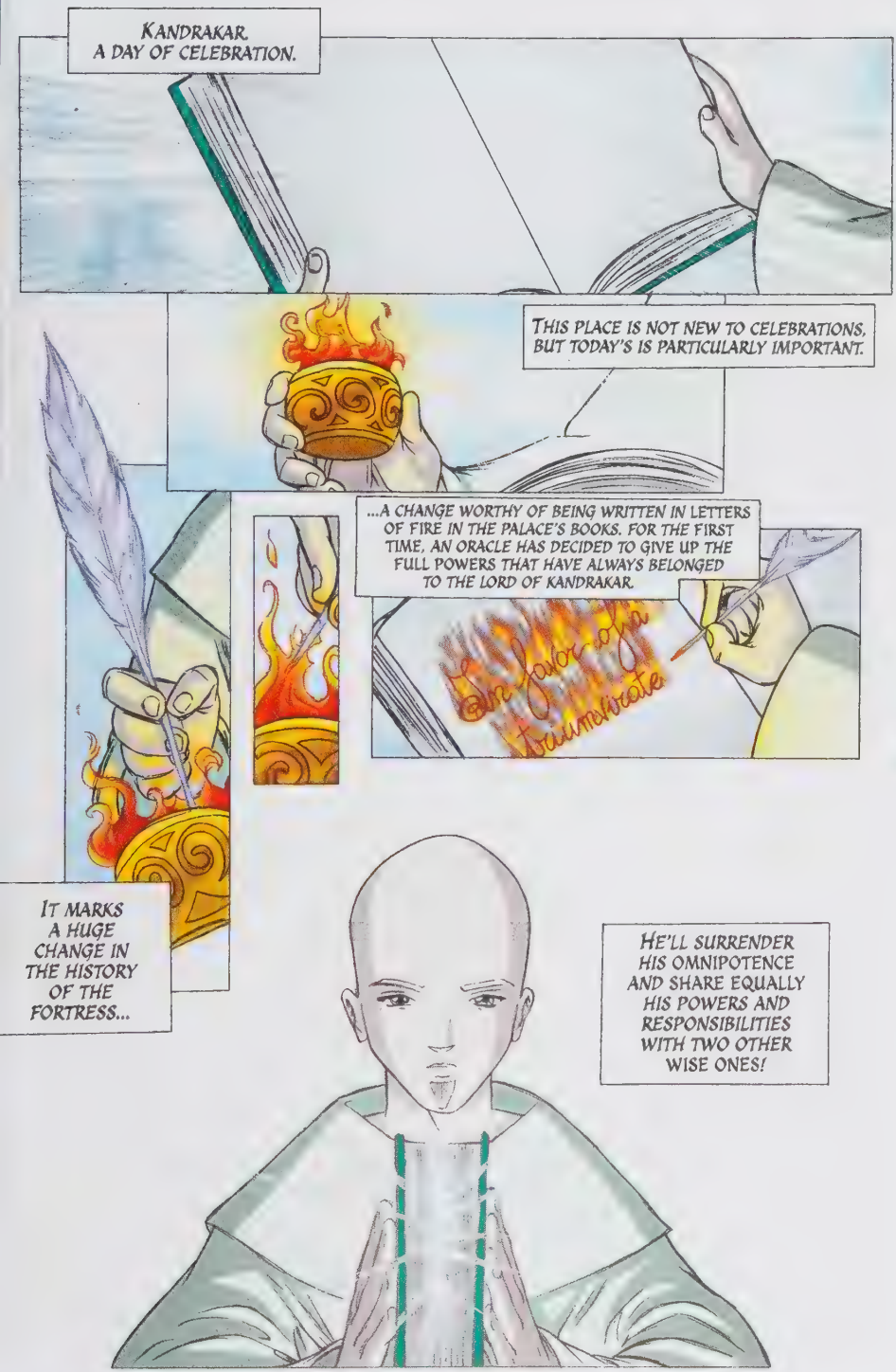
...I HAD YOUR NUMBER! HA-HA!
PFFT! GOOD ONE!

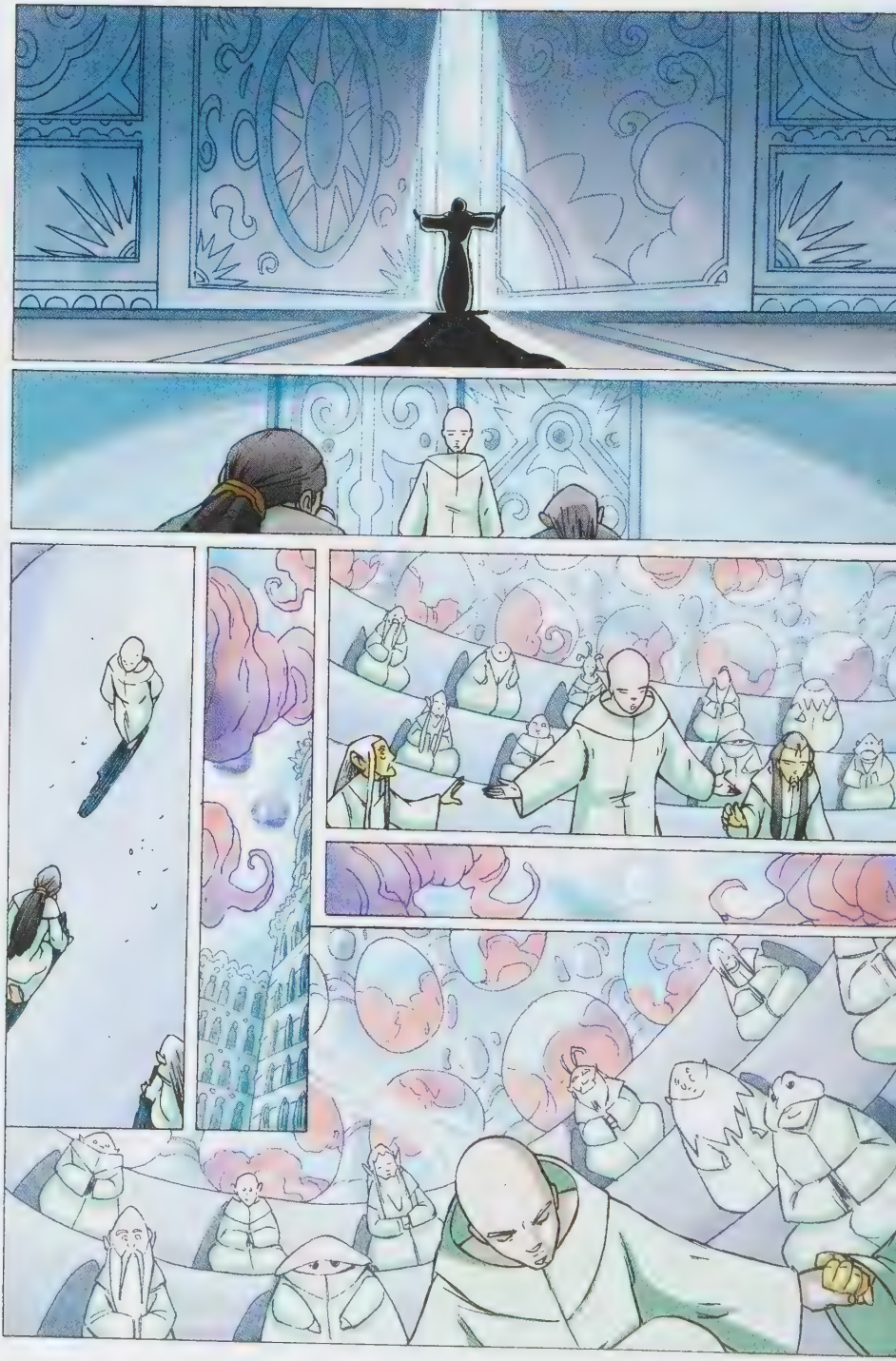
HOW COME YOU'RE NOT EVEN A LITTLE NERVOUS?

I'll tell you a secret. My last name is PRADD...
?
...AND AT THIS RATE, I WON'T GET MY AUDITION UNTIL LATE TONIGHT.
I'M CERTAINLY NOT GONNA START WORRYING NOW, DEAR TARANEE...
...COOK!
MY TURN!
GOOD LUCK...
...GO FOR THE BURN!
TARANEE Cook!

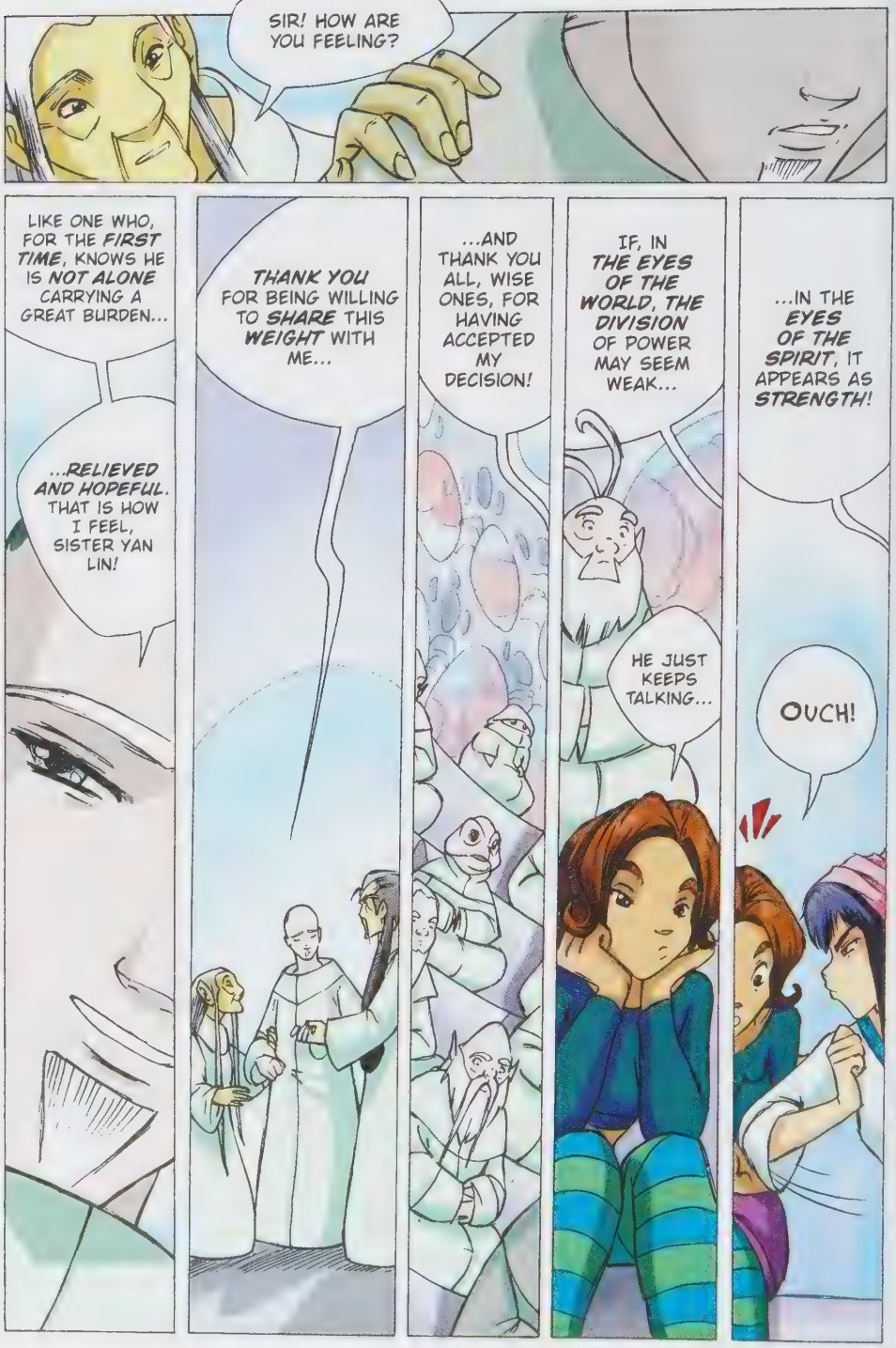
YOU ROCK, TARANE
COME IN. IT'S YOUR TURN!

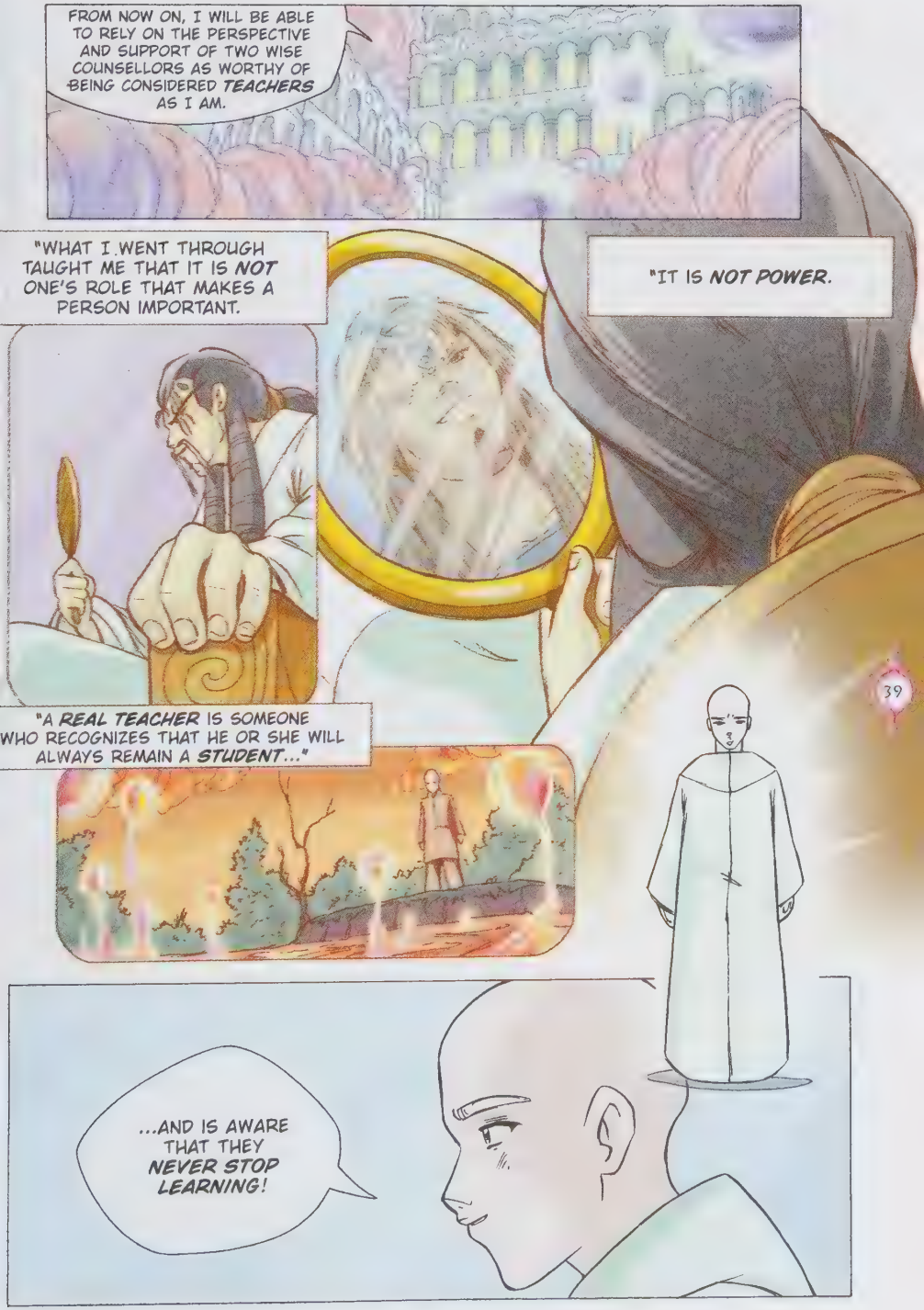
TARANEE COOK, RIGHT?
YES...
CLIK
LET'S SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO...
WHILE TARANEE TAKES HER SHOT...

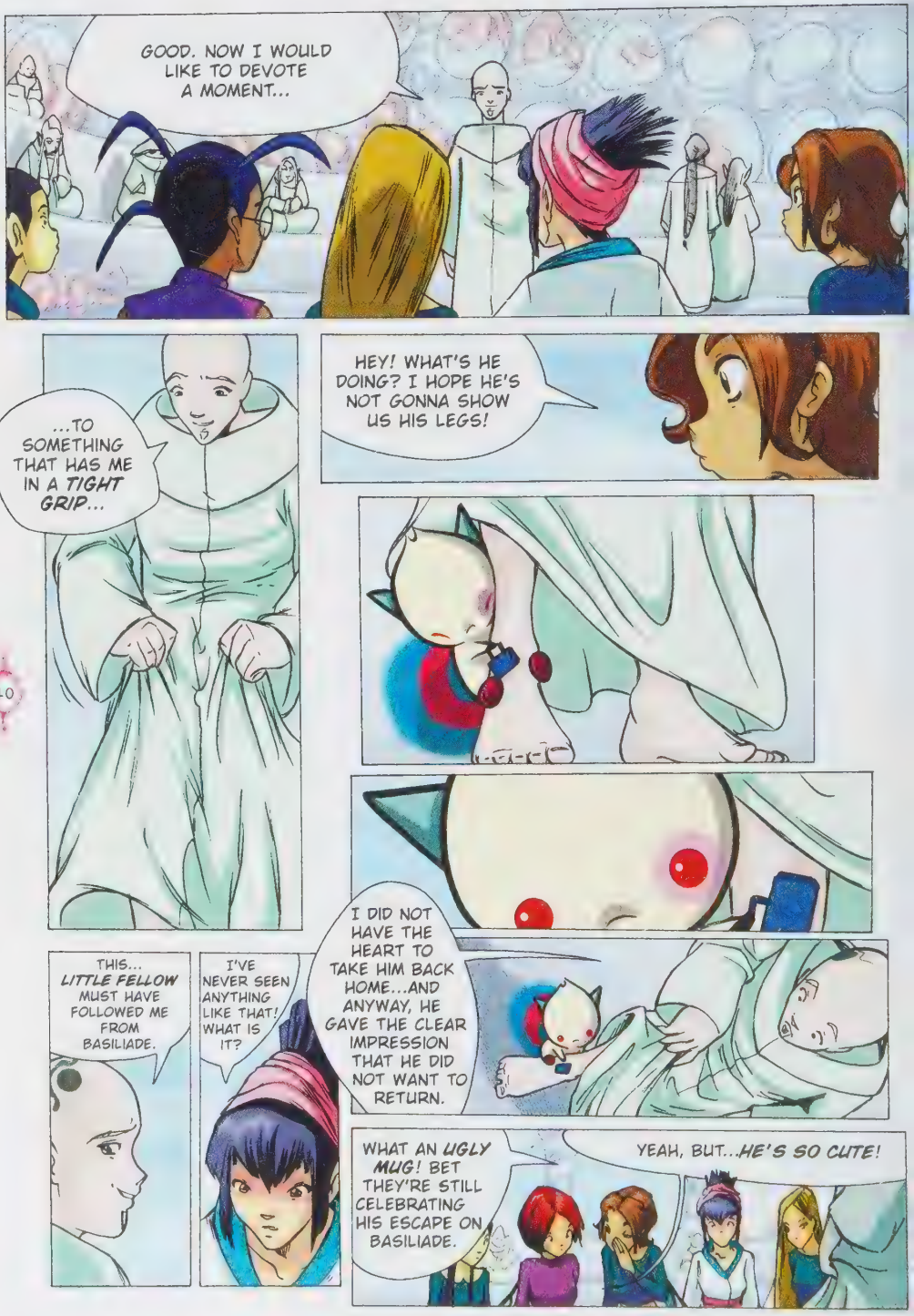

KANDRAKAR.
A DAY OF CELEBRATION.
THIS PLACE IS NOT NEW TO CELEBRATIONS, BUT TODAY'S IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT.
...A CHANGE WORTHY OF BEING WRITTEN IN LETTERS OF FIRE IN THE PALACE'S BOOKS. FOR THE FIRST TIME, AN ORACLE HAS DECIDED TO GIVE UP THE FULL POWERS THAT HAVE ALWAYS BELONGED TO THE LORD OF KANDRAKAR.
IT MARKS A HUGE CHANGE IN THE HISTORY OF THE FORTRESS...
HE'LL SURRENDER HIS OMNIPOTENCE AND SHARE EQUALLY HIS POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES WITH TWO OTHER WISE ONES!



AH!
FSSS
FSSS


SIR! HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
LIKE ONE WHO, FOR THE FIRST TIME, KNOWS HE IS NOT ALONE CARRYING A GREAT BURDEN...
...RELIEVED AND HOPEFUL. THAT IS HOW I FEEL, SISTER YAN LIN!
THANK YOU FOR BEING WILLING TO SHARE THIS WEIGHT WITH ME...
...AND THANK YOU ALL, WISE ONES, FOR HAVING ACCEPTED MY DECISION!
IF, IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD, THE DIVISION OF POWER MAY SEEM WEAK...
HE JUST KEEPS TALKING...
...IN THE EYES OF THE SPIRIT, IT APPEARS AS STRENGTH!
OUCH!


FROM NOW ON, I WILL BE ABLE TO RELY ON THE PERSPECTIVE AND SUPPORT OF TWO WISE COUNSELLORS AS WORTHY OF BEING CONSIDERED TEACHERS AS I AM.
"WHAT I WENT THROUGH TAUGHT ME THAT IT IS NOT ONE'S ROLE THAT MAKES A PERSON IMPORTANT.
"IT IS NOT POWER.
"A REAL TEACHER IS SOMEONE WHO RECOGNIZES THAT HE OR SHE WILL ALWAYS REMAIN A STUDENT..."
...AND IS AWARE THAT THEY NEVER STOP LEARNING!

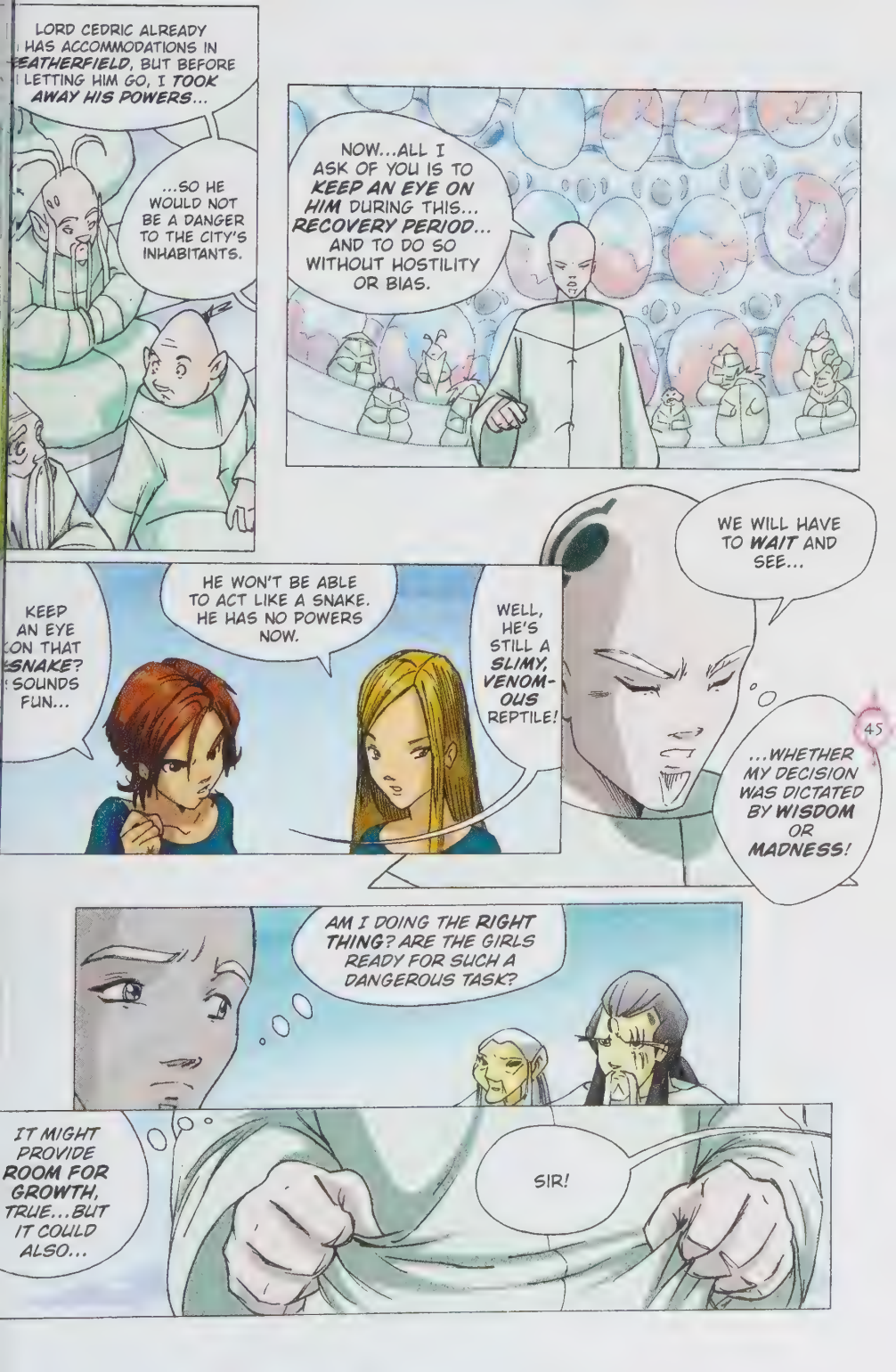

GOOD. NOW I WOULD LIKE TO DEVOTE A MOMENT...
...TO SOMETHING THAT HAS ME IN A TIGHT GRIP...
HEY! WHAT'S HE DOING? I HOPE HE'S NOT GONNA SHOW US HIS LEGS!
I DID NOT HAVE THE HEART TO TAKE HIM BACK HOME...AND ANYWAY, HE GAVE THE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO RETURN.
THIS... LITTLE FELLOW MUST HAVE FOLLOWED ME FROM BASILIADE.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT! WHAT IS IT?
WHAT AN UGLY MUG! BET THEY'RE STILL CELEBRATING HIS ESCAPE ON BASILIADE.
YEAH, BUT...HE'S SO CUTE!

I WOULD HAVE KEPT HIM, ORUBE, BUT THIS IS NOT THE RIGHT PLACE...HERE, ORUBE, PEACE AND QUIET MUST REIGN, AND HE, ORUBE, ALREADY BROKE A WINDOW AND MAKES WEIRD NOISES...
UM...WHY DO YOU KEEP REPEATING MY NAME?
BECAUSE I WANT TO GIVE HIM TO YOU. YOU CHOSE TO STAY IN HEATHERFIELD, BUT I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU MISS YOUR WORLD. HE WILL MAKE YOU FEEL AT HOME!
!
IF HE DOESN'T DESTROY THE HOUSE FIRST!
C'MON... HE LOOKS HARMLESS!
SIR, I...
DO NOT THANK ME! CONSIDER IT A LITTLE GIFT TO SHOW MY GRATITUDE.
COME... GO, LITTLE ONE...
WHAT A KIND THOUGHT!
WHAT A NICE PAIR OF KITTENS!
DOES...DOES HE HAVE A NAME?
NO, BUT I AM SURE YOU WILL SELECT A GOOD ONE.
WHAT ABOUT "UGLY MUG"?
IRMA, YOU SAID HE LOOKS LIKE ORUBE, NOT YOU! HA-HA!

ORUBE, YOU SHOULD KNOW YOUR LITTLE FRIEND CAN TURN INVISIBLE.
HOW LUCKY!
...AT LEAST IN PART.
OH! THE TAIL'S STILL VISIBLE!
THAT'S FUNNY! IT LOOKS LIKE A FURBALL!
AND THAT IS ONLY ONE OF HIS PECULIARITIES. SOON YOU WILL FIND OUT MUCH MORE ABOUT HIM!
...AND CARING FOR HIM, YOU WILL FEEL AS IF YOU ARE BREATHING THE AIR OF BASILIADE!
SNIF SNIF
I THOUGHT IT SMELLED NICER...
BLESS YOU! NOW, GIRLS, ABOUT YOU...
POF

HA! HERE WE GO. I WONDER WHAT SURPRISE OUR CHATTY ORACLE HAS GOT FOR US THIS TIME!
GUARDIANS, SEEING YOU IN ACTION DURING YOUR LAST MISSION STRENGTHENED MY BELIEF THAT YOU ARE READY FOR SOMETHING BIG...
...A SERIOUS DUTY OF HUGE RESPONSIBILITY.
AND SO, WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, LET ME TELL YOU THAT...
HMM... NOTHING'S EVER STRAIGHT-FORWARD, HUH?
...YOU WILL SOON BE CALLED TO GUARD LORD CEDRIC!
TAKE DEEP BREATHS, IRMA. IT'S JUST A DREAM.
I THOUGHT HE WAS IMPRISONED IN THE TOWER OF MISTS!
FEAR NOT...
LORD CEDRIC? BUT HOW...? WHERE...?
AND... WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "GUARD"?

...THERE IS AN ANSWER TO ALL YOUR QUESTIONS, STARTING FROM THE END...
SHA-KRATZ
"...THE END OF A MAN WHO THOUGHT HE WAS FREE BUT HAD ALWAYS BEEN A SLAVE TO HIS HATRED AND THIRST FOR POWER!"
I TALKED TO HIM IN THE TOWER OF MISTS WHERE HE WAS IMPRISONED...
...AND TRIED TO SEE INTO HIS EVIL HEART, LOOKING FOR THE REASON HE BETRAYED HIS MASTER.
44
SHEER OPPORTUNISM.
SIMPLE DESIRE FOR REVENGE!
PERHAPS...
OR... MAYBE FEAR.
...STILL, HIS ACTIONS, HIS REBELLION AGAINST PHOBOS, PAVED THE WAY FOR HIS REHABILITATION.
BUT HE'S A CRIMINAL! A LIAR!
ALL HE DESERVES IS...
...ONE LAST CHANCE, IRMA. AND I DECIDED TO GIVE IT TO HIM...BUT AWAY FROM HERE!


LORD CEDRIC ALREADY HAS ACCOMMODATIONS IN FEATHERFIELD, BUT BEFORE LETTING HIM GO, I TOOK AWAY HIS POWERS...
...SO HE WOULD NOT BE A DANGER TO THE CITY'S INHABITANTS.
NOW...ALL I ASK OF YOU IS TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM DURING THIS... RECOVERY PERIOD... AND TO DO SO WITHOUT HOSTILITY OR BIAS.
WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE...
...WHETHER MY DECISION WAS DICTATED BY WISDOM OR MADNESS!
KEEP AN EYE ON THAT SNAKE? SOUNDS FUN...
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO ACT LIKE A SNAKE. HE HAS NO POWERS NOW.
WELL, HE'S STILL A SLIMY, VENOMOUS REPTILE!
AM I DOING THE RIGHT THING? ARE THE GIRLS READY FOR SUCH A DANGEROUS TASK?
IT MIGHT PROVIDE ROOM FOR GROWTH, TRUE...BUT IT COULD ALSO...
SIR!

IF THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT, MY FRIENDS AND I WILL DO OUR BEST TO NOT LET YOU DOWN.
ON ONE CONDITION, THOUGH!
A BIT PUSHY... DON'CHA THINK?
WE GET A THANK-YOU PRESENT WHEN WE'RE DONE.
IRMA!
A LEGITIMATE REQUEST, IRMA...
!!
?
...BUT REMEMBER, THE SEED SPENDS A LONG TIME UNDERGROUND BEFORE IT BLOSSOMS!
?
GOOD-BYE, GUARDIANS!
What does that mean?
HEY! BY THE WAY...
He could have at least given us a CLUE!
Meh? Maybe he got into gardening!
A CERTAIN ORUBE INVITED US FOR DINNER TONIGHT! NO HINT ON WHY?
THE CAT GOT HER TONGUE...
COME AND YOU'LL SEE!

"IT'S GOING TO BE A SURPRISE!"
AWESOME!
ORUBE, IT'S WONDERFUL!
WOWOWOW!
DO YOU LIKE IT?
SINCE I DECIDED TO STAY, I THOUGHT IT WAS TIME TO MAKE THINGS A LITTLE MORE HOMEY!
IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
HEY...WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS UNDER HIS FEET?
HELLO, YOU!
AH! I HADN'T NOTICED THOSE ODD MARKS.
THEY LOOK LIKE A "W" AND AN "E"! SHOULD WE CALL HIM WE?
YAY! WE FOUND A NAME!
SOUNDS A BIT LIKE A DETERGENT, BUT...FINE BY ME!
"HERE'S OUR WE!"

AND THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE IN THE DINING ROOM— JOSH, MY CLASSMATE AT UNI!
GULP! WHAT IF HE SAW ME?
YOU'RE FORGETTING HIS INVISIBILITY! JOSH JUST ADMIRED MY... FURRY BALL-SHAPED CUSHION!
RIGHT!
GOOD. LET'S GO, THEN!
KA-HOW?
YOU STAY HERE, ALL QUIET AND TRANSPARENT!
HEY! YOU'RE THE FIREMAN!
HI, GIRLS!
OH! THAT MUST BE THE PIZZA DELIVERY.
FOOD! FOOD! I'LL GET IT!
DELIVERY FOR REBECCA RUDOLPH! THREE MARGHERITAS, ONE CRUSTY, THREE VEGGIE, AND A SUPER-SPECIAL. HERE'S THE BILL.
YUM! HERE YA GO.
THANKS, CUPCAKE!
MARTIN!

SURPRISED? WELL, I DIDN'T EXPECT TO MEET YOU HERE EITHER! I BET THE CRUSTY IS YOURS, HUH?
SORRY... IT'S JUST SO MUCH HAS BEEN HAPPENING LATELY...
...SO MUCH YOU NEVER HAD TIME TO ANSWER MY TEXTS. I FIGURED! WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER MUCH AT SCHOOL EITHER...
YOU SEEM... DIFFERENT! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU GOT A JOB.
I WANT TO SAVE UP...BUT THERE'S LOTS OF STUFF YOU DON'T KNOW! I WAS PROMOTED BY THE HAPPY BEARS...
...AND I GOT A FRENCH PEN PAL NAMED MICHELLE!
WELL...WHEN I FIGURED OUT I WAS THE HOPELESS ONE...I THOUGHT INSISTING WOULD BE LAME.
HEH. QUITE A CHANGE FROM THOSE USELESS LESSONS TO A HOPELESS PUPIL...
ANYWAY, MY DOOR'S ALWAYS OPEN FOR THAT PUPIL!
CRIPES, MARTIN! I COULD DIE OF SHAME!

I NEVER IMAGINED YOU HAD SO MUCH INITIATIVE...
IT WAS GOOD SEEING YOU! LUCKILY, THIS WAS MY LAST DELIVERY...
...I CAN HOP ON MY WHEELS AND GO BACK HOME...
STUPID, SELFISH, AND INSENSITIVE! THAT'S WHAT I AM!
...AND GRAB A BITE TO EAT!
WAIT! WHAT ABOUT A PIZZA?
HUH?
WELL...I MEAN... LET'S SAY HALF A PIZZA...
I'M WILLING TO SHARE MINE IN EXCHANGE FOR ALL YOUR NEWS!
DEAL!
♬ ANOTHER HUNGRY MOUTH ♪ TO FEED... ♪
HEY, MARTIN! HOW ARE YOU?
LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A NEW GUEST...
UM... HI!

DUN DLON
DLIN DLON
ORUBE, WERE YOU WAITING FOR SOMEONE ELSE?
UM... DON'T WORRY, I'LL GET IT!
HI!
HI! I BROUGHT BACK YOUR SHELF! I MANAGED TO FIX IT, SO NOW WE CAN PUT IT UP WITH THE OTHERS!
Hear, hear...
GUYS...THIS IS RAY! HE HELPED ME REDECORATE THE HOUSE.
ONLY SO SHE WOULD ACCEPT AN INVITATION TO MY CONCERT!
And here I was thinking you'd done it ALL BY YOURSELF!
A TRUE WARRIOR knows when she NEEDS HELP!
NICE TO MEET YOU!
WELL, NOW THAT WE'RE ALL HERE...BON APPÉTIT!
BON APPÉ— OOPS!

WHO SAID YOU'D CHANGED, HUH, MARTIN?
ER...
!!
LET ME... I'LL GET IT!
WHAT...?
HUH?
UM...MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!
DING DING DING
DING DING DING

I THINK IT'S TIME TO TELL YOU WHY I ORGANIZED THIS DINNER...
COOKIE! YOU'RE MISSING THE BEST PART!
C-COMING!
DID I REALLY SEE THAT, OR DID I MAKE IT UP?
AND IF IT WAS REAL...WHAT THE HECK WAS IT? IT WASN'T THE REFLECTION OF ANYTHING AROUND HERE...
OKAY, HERE'S THE BIG NEWS...
IT JUST LOOKED LIKE AN OLD BOOK, BUT IT WAS ENOUGH TO GIVE ME THE CREEPS!
I'VE BEEN SELECTED...
...AS A WRITER FOR A FAMOUS MAGAZINE FOR TEENAGE GIRLS!
YAY! AWESOME!
HOORAY!
SO THE INTERVIEW WENT WELL?
I'D SAY IT WENT GREAT!
FANTAS— OUCH!
BONK

I DIDN'T DARE HOPE, BUT IT SEEMS THEY REALLY LIKED MY FEATURE.
DON'T PUT YOURSELF DOWN! IT'S CLEAR YOU HAVE TALENT.
LISTEN TO THAT ROMEO!
YEAH...A REAL TALENT... FOR GETTING INTO TROUBLE!
HEE-HEE! WE KNOW!
TING
TING
TING
CHEERS!
TELL US...WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU GONNA WRITE ABOUT?
THE "CATTY COLUMN"?
UM...THAT'S CONFIDENTIAL! I MEAN, ACTUALLY, I DON'T KNOW YET. BUT I'M SURE IT'S GOING TO BE AN GREAT JOB!
PFFT... WELL, TODAY'S BEEN FULL OF SURPRISES !!
TOO BAD THEY'RE OVER. I COULD GET USED TO IT.
...
WELL, IF YOU LIKE...I HAVE ONE MORE...
???

GUUUUYS! TARA'S GOT SOMETHING TO SAY!
UM...I DON'T THINK ANYONE'S INTERESTED...
UH-UH! YOU CAN'T LEAVE US HANGING NOW!
SOOOOOOOOO?
I'VE BEEN ACCEPTED FOR THE ADVANCED COURSE AT THE DANCE SCHOOL!
OOF... FINE!
YAAAY!
I DIDN'T THINK THE RESULTS WERE OUT YET!
ACTUALLY, ME EITHER...

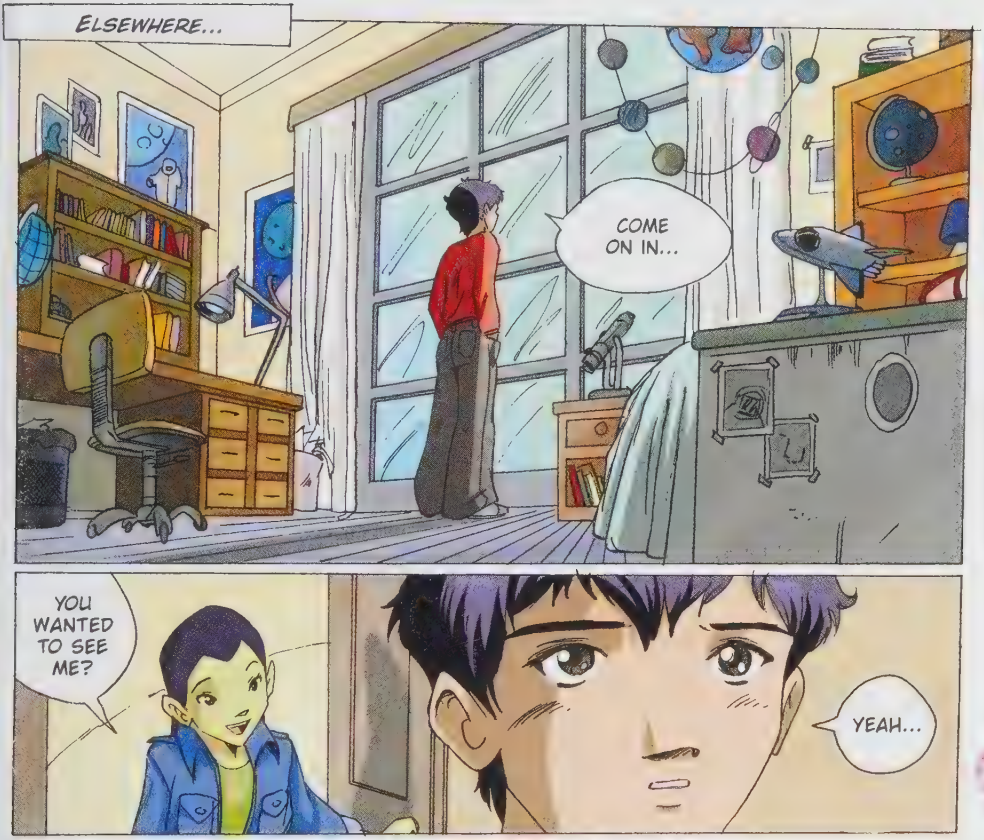
"KEVIN JENSEN HIMSELF TOLD ME THIS AFTERNOON!"
AH.
DID...DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
I DID IT! I DID IT!
?
THE ADVANCED COURSE AT JENSEN'S DANCE SCHOOL! THEY ACCEPTED ME. GET IT? I PASSED THE AUDITION!
THAT'S FANTASTIC!
I'M PROUD OF YOU! I KNEW YOU'D DO IT.

WELL, THE HARD PART STARTS NOW. IT'S A SERIOUS COMMITMENT, AND I'M A BIT SCARED...
I'M SURE YOU CAN HANDLE IT.
I HOPE SO. IT WON'T BE EASY JUGGLING SCHOOL AND HOMEWORK WITH THREE AFTERNOONS A WEEK AT JENSEN!
THREE AFTERNOONS?
YEAH...EVEN MORE WHEN WE HAVE TO WORK HARDER, LIKE BEFORE AN EXAM OR RECITAL! JENSEN WAS CLEAR ABOUT THAT FROM THE START.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TALK TO ME ABOUT IT?
?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THIS WOULD TAKE UP SO MUCH OF YOUR TIME?
I DON'T... I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D TAKE ME... I DIDN'T THINK...
...YOU DIDN'T THINK ABOUT US!

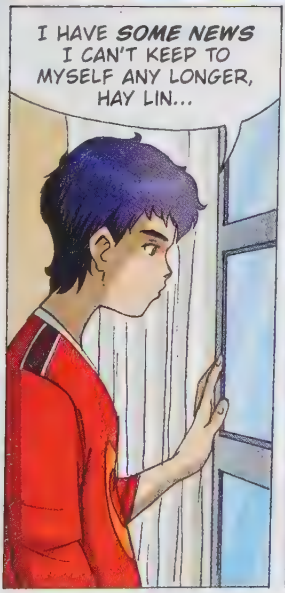
WHEN ARE WE GONNA HAVE TIME FOR US IF YOU'RE SO BUSY?
YOU DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THAT, DID YOU?
NIGEL, I...
...I'M SURE WE'LL FIND A WAY TO BE TOGETHER ANYWAY. WE CAN ALWAYS FIND TIME FOR THE THINGS WE CARE ABOUT, RIGHT?
BESIDES... I STILL DON'T KNOW THE EXACT SCHEDULE...
I WONDER IF LUKE PASSED THE AUDITION TOO... I FORGOT TO GIVE HIM BACK HIS SWEATBAND!

IT'S AMAZING! I'M SO PROUD OF YOU, TARA!
ME TOO!
UM... EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO GO CHECK ON SOMETHING!
ARE YOU OKAY?
COME NOW, NO NEED TO FEEL LEFT OUT... ACHOO!
KAA! SKF!
ACHOO! ACHOO!
BLESS YOU! I HEARD A SUPER-SNEEZE...
OOF! I THINK IT'S HIS FAULT! I MUST BE ALLERGIC TO HIS FUR.
SHHH! CALM DOWN, SHE DIDN'T MEAN ANY-THING BY IT!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, KEEPING HIM AT HOME IS GONNA BE IMPOSSIBLE!
YES... I'D MISS HIM, BUT I'D HAVE TO FIND HIM ANOTHER PLACE TO STAY.
REBECCA! WILL! WHERE ARE YOU?

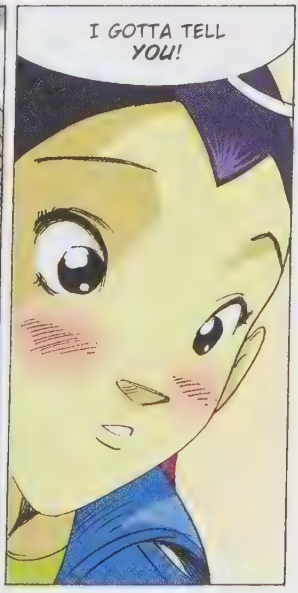
PRRRR...
HERE WE ARE!
I JUST REMEMBERED THE ANTIQUE BOOKSHOP DOWNTOWN REOPENED... IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR YOUR ARTICLES. IT'S FULL OF INTERESTING STUFF!
=SNIFF= THANKS FOR THE TIP! WHAT'S IT CALLED AGAIN?
Ye Olde Book Shop
OPEN
HELLO?


ELSEWHERE...
COME ON IN...

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME?
YEAH...


I HAVE SOME NEWS I CAN'T KEEP TO MYSELF ANY LONGER, HAY LIN...

I GOTTA TELL SOMEONE...


I GOTTA TELL YOU!

GO AHEAD...
WELL... THE FIRST THING IS MY PARENTS GOT THEIR FUNDING AT OPEN HILL!
THEY'LL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THEIR RESEARCH AND WILL TAKE OVER THE JOB OF A PROFESSOR WHO'S RETIRING.
OH, ERIC, THAT'S AWESOME!
I'M SO HAPPY FOR THEM. IT WAS THEIR DREAM!
YEAH... THEY'RE REALLY EXCITED.
THEY'RE LEAVING IN A COUPLE WEEKS...
YOU'RE SAD, AREN'T YOU?
I MEAN...IT MUST BE REALLY TOUGH TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO THEM AGAIN.

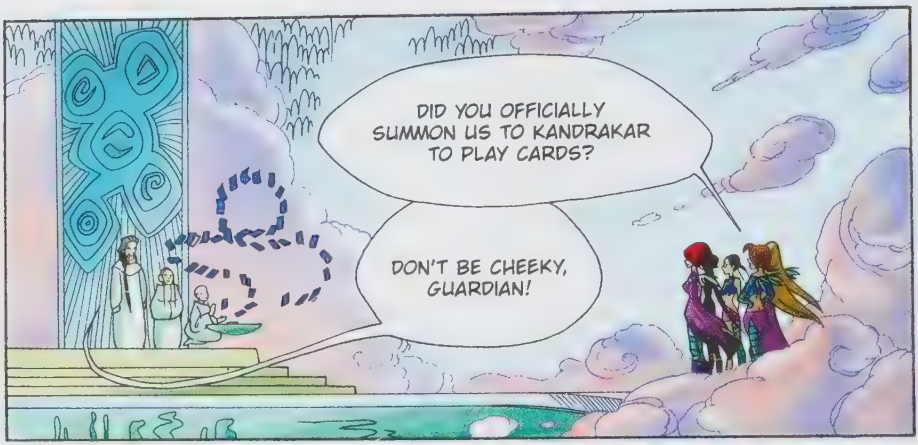
VRRR
ERIC...I'M SORRY... I DIDN'T MEAN...
IT'S OKAY. IT'S NOT YOU. IT'S JUST...THAT'S THE POINT...
...THE SECOND THING, I MEAN...
IT'S THAT THIS TIME, MOM AND DAD...
...HAVE ASKED ME TO GO WITH THEM...

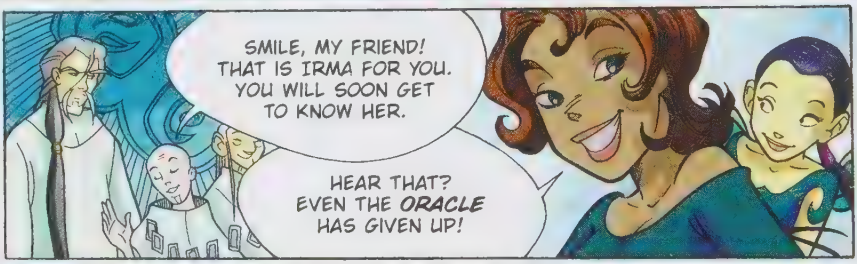
END OF CHAPTER 49

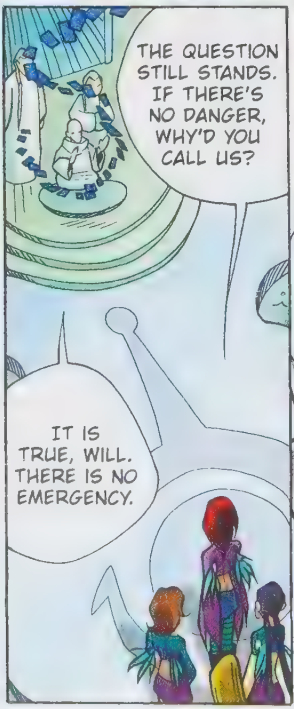
50
50

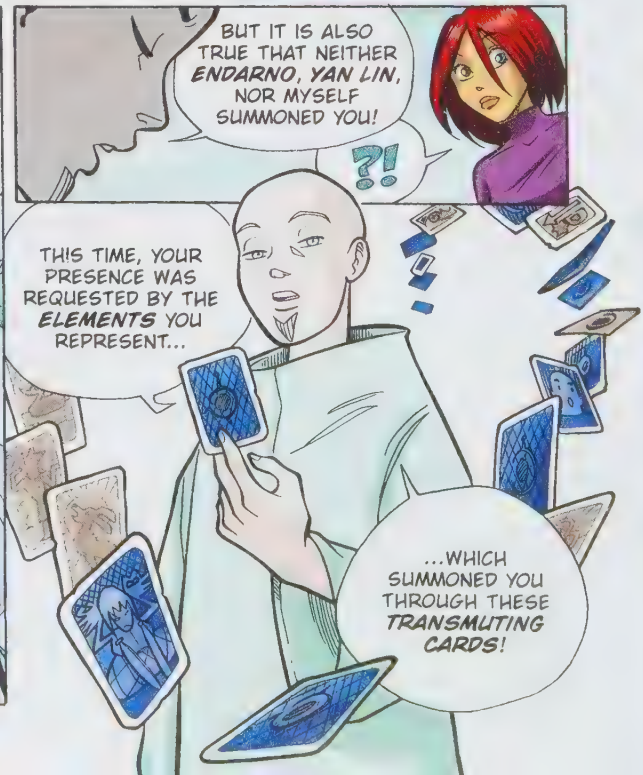
Witch
Will
Irma
Taranee
Cornelia
Hay Lin

FIRE...
...AIR...
...WATER...
...EARTH...
...AND WILL'S PURE ENERGY.

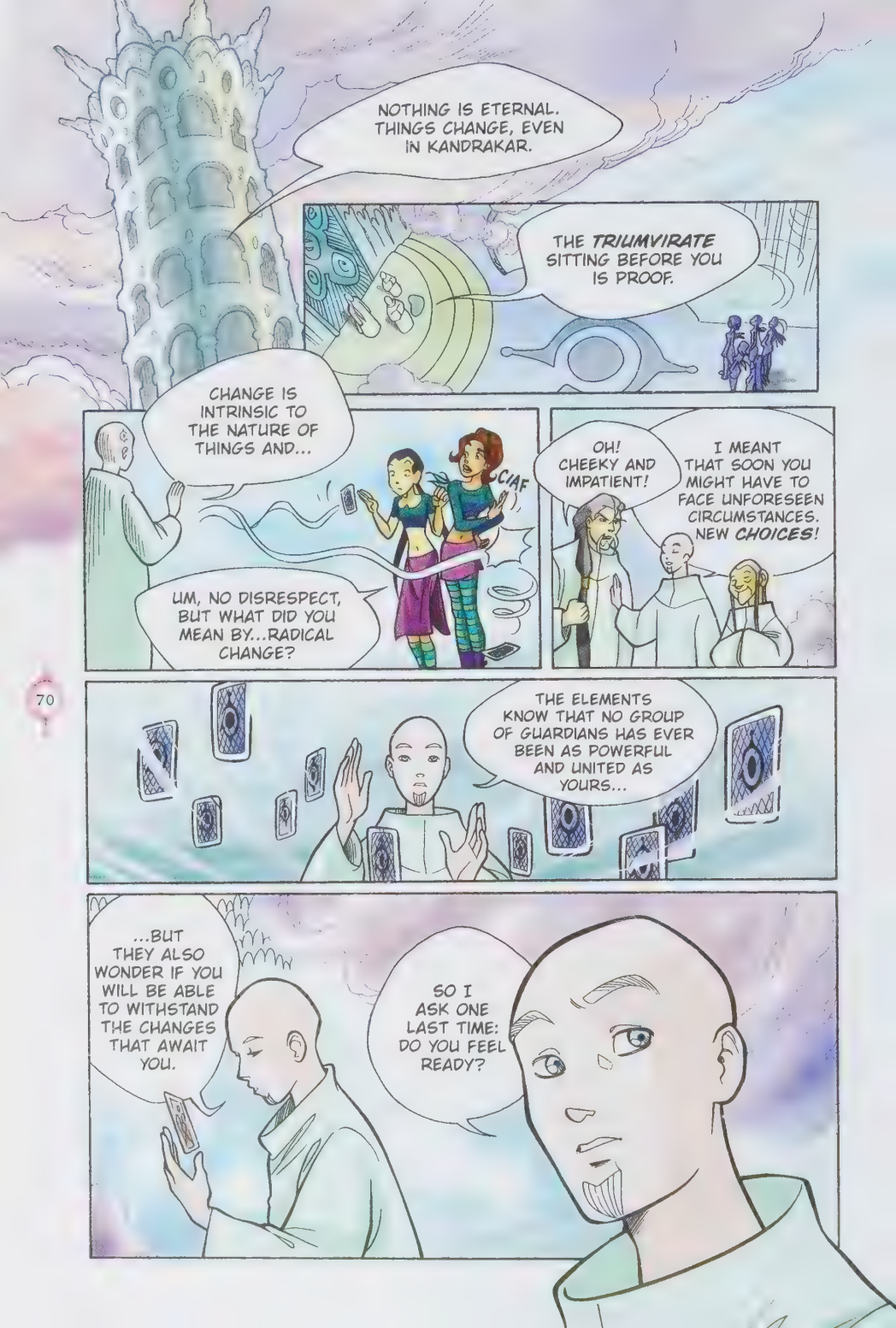

DID YOU OFFICIALLY SUMMON US TO KANDRAKAR TO PLAY CARDS?
DON'T BE CHEEKY, GUARDIAN!


SMILE, MY FRIEND! THAT IS IRMA FOR YOU. YOU WILL SOON GET TO KNOW HER.
HEAR THAT? EVEN THE ORACLE HAS GIVEN UP!

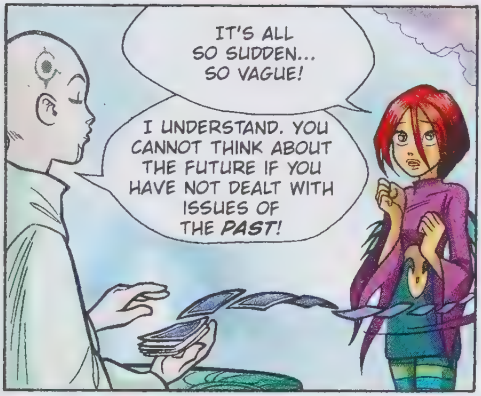

THE QUESTION STILL STANDS. IF THERE'S NO DANGER, WHY'D YOU CALL US?
IT IS TRUE, WILL. THERE IS NO EMERGENCY.

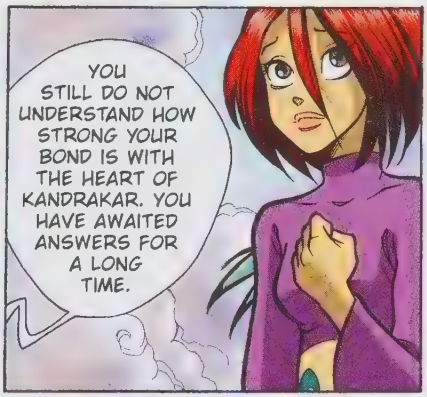

BUT IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT NEITHER ENDARNO, YAN LIN, NOR MYSELF SUMMONED YOU!
?!
TH!S TIME, YOUR PRESENCE WAS REQUESTED BY THE ELEMENTS YOU REPRESENT...
...WHICH SUMMONED YOU THROUGH THESE TRANSMUTING CARDS!

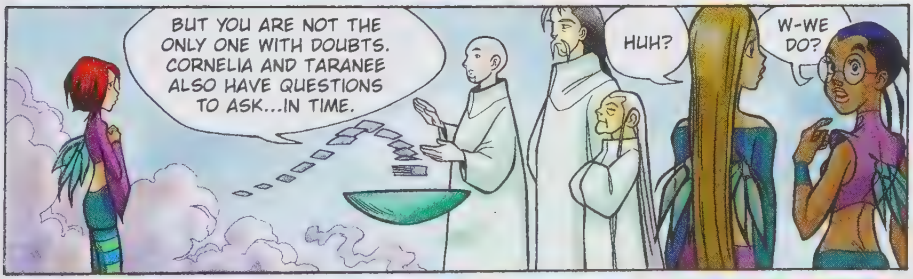
THE ELEMENTS...
...CAN SPEAK?
YES, THOUGH THEY RARELY DO SO, AND WHEN THEY DO, IT SIGNIFIES A MAJOR EVENT.
FOR NOW, THEY MERELY WANT TO ASK YOU A QUESTION. ARE YOU READY?
WE'RE ALL EARS!
YOU MISUNDERSTAND. THAT WAS THE QUESTION: ARE YOU READY?
?
?
READY... FOR WHAT?
READY FOR A RADICAL CHANGE IN YOUR MISSION AS GUARDIANS!


NOTHING IS ETERNAL. THINGS CHANGE, EVEN IN KANDRAKAR.
THE TRIUMVIRATE SITTING BEFORE YOU IS PROOF.
CHANGE IS INTRINSIC TO THE NATURE OF THINGS AND...
CIAF
UM, NO DISRESPECT, BUT WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY...RADICAL CHANGE?
OH! CHEEKY AND IMPATIENT!
I MEANT THAT SOON YOU MIGHT HAVE TO FACE UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES. NEW CHOICES!
THE ELEMENTS KNOW THAT NO GROUP OF GUARDIANS HAS EVER BEEN AS POWERFUL AND UNITED AS YOURS...
...BUT THEY ALSO WONDER IF YOU WILL BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE CHANGES THAT AWAIT YOU.
SO I ASK ONE LAST TIME: DO YOU FEEL READY?

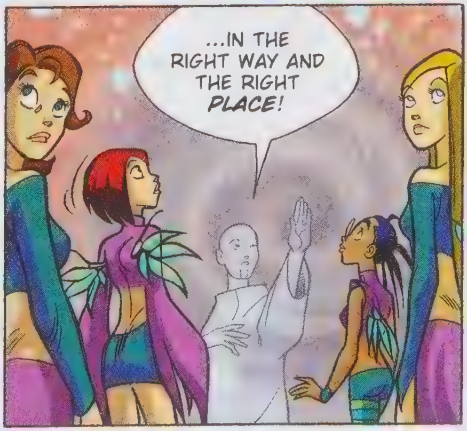
I...
I DON'T KNOW!
?!


IT'S ALL SO SUDDEN... SO VAGUE!
I UNDERSTAND. YOU CANNOT THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE IF YOU HAVE NOT DEALT WITH ISSUES OF THE PAST!


YOU STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW STRONG YOUR BOND IS WITH THE HEART OF KANDRAKAR. YOU HAVE AWAITED ANSWERS FOR A LONG TIME.


BUT YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH DOUBTS. CORNELIA AND TARANEE ALSO HAVE QUESTIONS TO ASK...IN TIME.
HUH?
W-WE DO?

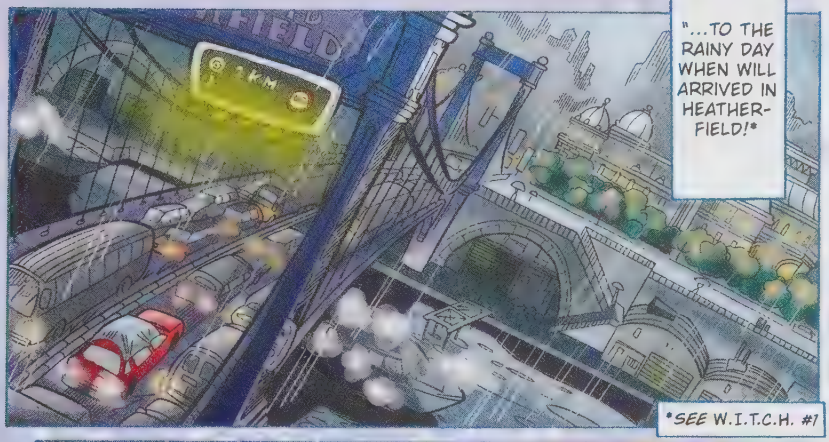
SO BEFORE WE PROCEED, IT WOULD BE BETTER IF WE CLEAR SOME THINGS UP...


...IN THE RIGHT WAY AND THE RIGHT PLACE!

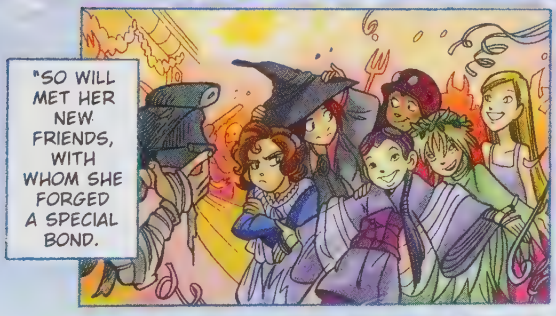
HEY, WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE!
YES. IT WAS YAN LIN WHO SHOWED YOU THIS MAGICAL SPOT.*
*IT'S THE ROOM OF PHANTOMS. SEE W.I.T.C.H. CHAPTER 47
THIS IS WHERE ALL THE IMMATERIAL COPIES OF MAGICAL OBJECTS ARE KEPT.
INCLUDING THE HOUR-GLASS OF THE BREATH OF TIME! YOU REMEMBER IT, DO YOU NOT, CORNELIA?
HOW COULD I FORGET? PHOBOS GAVE IT TO ME. IT WAS A TRICK!
YET, IT GLADLY ACCEPTED YOU. JUST LOOK! IT SHINES WITH JOY.
IT RECOGNIZES ME? FOR REAL?
YES. BUT IT IS NOT YET TIME FOR YOU TO BE REUNITED.

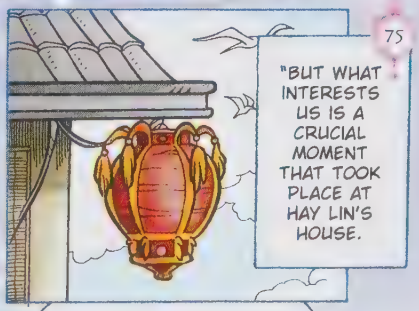
WE ARE HERE TO CONSULT IT AND ASK IT TO SHOW US THE PAST AND THE FUTURE.
LIKE IN A MOVIE?
MORE OR LESS. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT TIME HAS INFINITE VARIATIONS, DEPENDING ON THE CHOICES WE MAKE...
...AND WE'RE GONNA SEE ALL OF 'EM?
OH, NO! I DO NOT THINK I HAVE ENOUGH POPCORN!
I HOPE SEEING JUST ONE POSSIBLE PAST WILL SUFFICE TO MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND, WILL...
Popcorn? Did... Did he make a joke?
...AND THAT JUST ONE POSSIBLE FUTURE WILL BE ENOUGH TO VANQUISH CORNELIA AND TARANEE'S DOUBTS!
ONE POSSIBLE... PAST? WHY?
TO TRY TO ANSWER THE QUESTION THAT OCCASIONALLY SNEAKS INTO YOUR THOUGHTS!

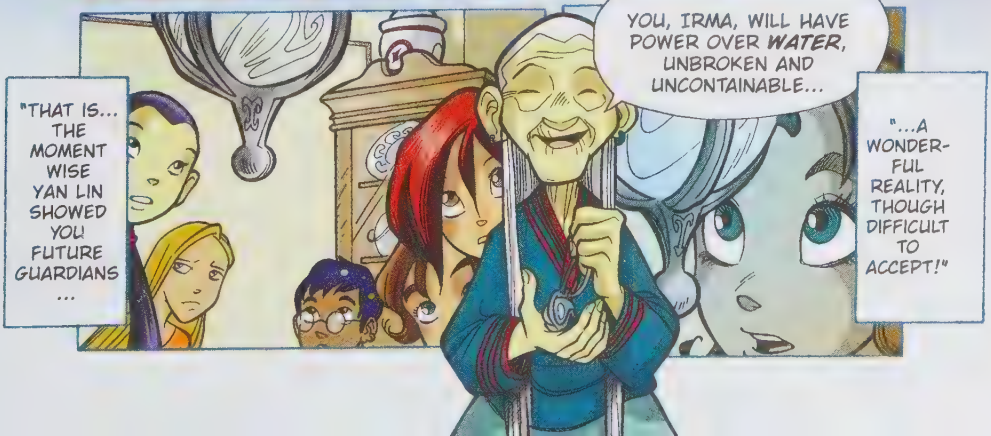
WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF...?
IF... IF...
...IF I HADN'T ACCEPTED THE HEART OF KANDRAKAR AT THE RIGHT MOMENT?
YOU REALLY WONDER ABOUT THAT, WILL?
WELL, NOT ALL THE TIME. AND ANYWAY, I THOUGHT YOU GUYS DID TOO!
QUIET. WATCH THE HOURGLASS. FOLLOW THE FLIGHT OF THE MAGICAL SANDS OF TIME...
...FROM RIGHT TO LEFT...
...FROM THE PRESENT...


"...TO THE RAINY DAY WHEN WILL ARRIVED IN HEATHER-FIELD!*
*SEE W.I.T.C.H. #1

"BACK THEN, SHE COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN THAT EVIL FORCES WERE WAITING, PREPARED TO ELIMINATE HER!


"SO WILL MET HER NEW FRIENDS, WITH WHOM SHE FORGED A SPECIAL BOND.

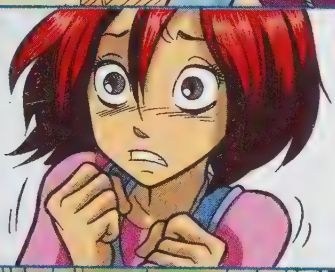

"BUT WHAT INTERESTS US IS A CRUCIAL MOMENT THAT TOOK PLACE AT HAY LIN'S HOUSE.

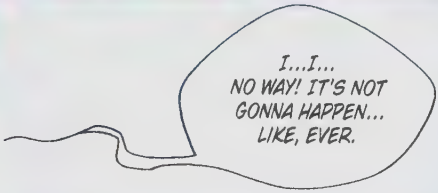

"THAT IS... THE MOMENT WISE YAN LIN SHOWED YOU FUTURE GUARDIANS ...
YOU, IRMA, WILL HAVE POWER OVER WATER, UNBROKEN AND UNCONTAINABLE...
"...A WONDER-FUL REALITY, THOUGH DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT!"

TO YOU, FIRM CORNELIA, THE POWER OF EARTH...
...GENEROUS TARANEE, YOURS IS THE DIFFICULT GIFT OF FIRE.
AND YOU, MY LITTLE HAY LIN, WILL BE FREE AND LIGHT AS THE AIR!
AND ME?
GIVE ME YOUR HAND, WILL!
YOU WILL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!
N-NO!

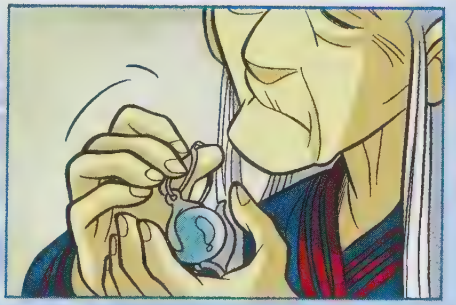
NOOO?

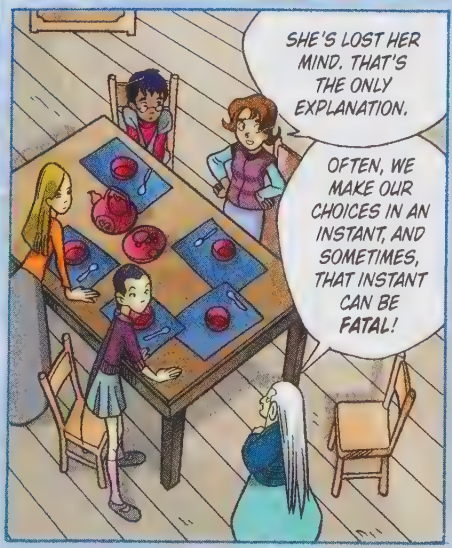
BUT WHY NOT?



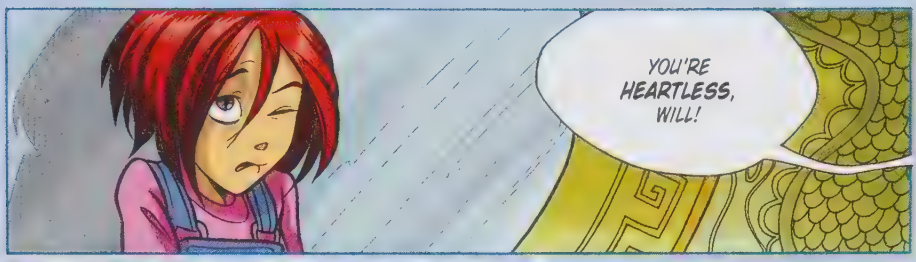

I...I... NO WAY! IT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN... LIKE, EVER.

...EVER!




SHE'S LOST HER MIND. THAT'S THE ONLY EXPLANATION.
OFTEN, WE MAKE OUR CHOICES IN AN INSTANT, AND SOMETIMES, THAT INSTANT CAN BE FATAL!

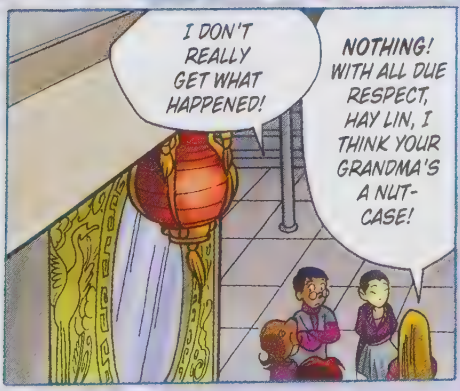
I WAS AFRAID IT MIGHT HAPPEN, BUT I TRIED TO HOPE, ALONG WITH KANDRAKAR, UNTIL THE END!
WE CAN'T BLAME HER. SHE'S GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME! SHE JUST ARRIVED IN TOWN AND...
...SHE WAS ABOUT TO RECEIVE MAGICAL POWERS! DON'T YOU GET IT?
I SAY...TOO BAD FOR HER! WE CAN DO IT WITHOUT HER, AM I RIGHT?
I'M SORRY, IRMA...
...BUT THERE CAN'T BE A GROUP OF GUARDIANS...
ZZZZ
...WITHOUT A HEART!
SHAAATRZ

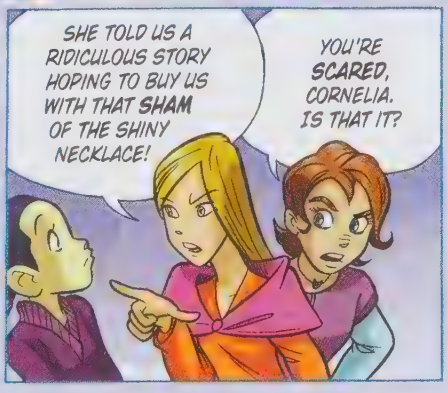

YOU'RE HEARTLESS, WILL!

BECAUSE YOU FREAKED, THAT THING...THE...THE... HEART OF MARZIPAN... CANDY BAR...
YEAH, WELL! THAT JEWEL TOOK OUR POWERS AWAY! IT ABSORBED THEM!

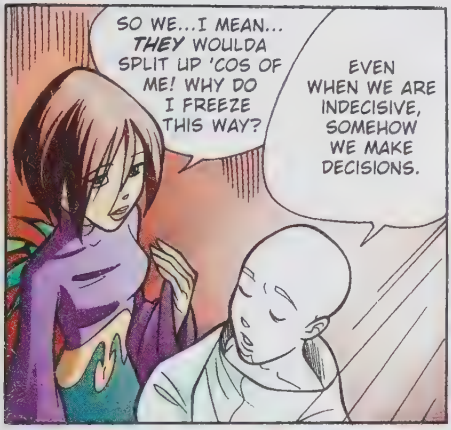
AND IT'LL KEEP THEM UNTIL THE HIGHER-UPS MAKE A DECISION!
BUT HAY LIN'S GRANDMA SAID OUR GROUP IS DONE FOR!

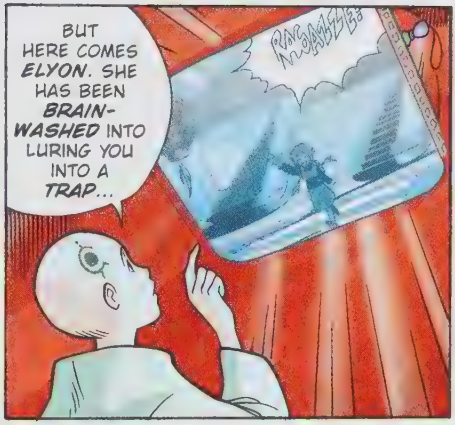
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW! I DIDN'T THINK THAT...
YOU WERE RIGHT! WE'RE WITH YOU 100%. RIGHT, TARANEE?

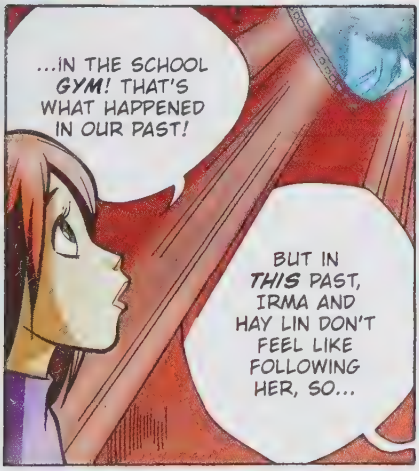

I DON'T REALLY GET WHAT HAPPENED!
NOTHING! WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, HAY LIN, I THINK YOUR GRANDMA'S A NUT-CASE!

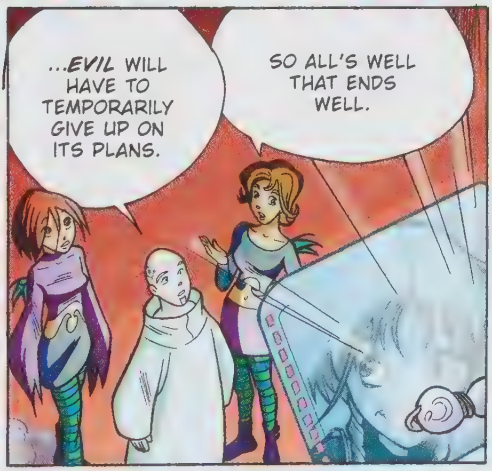

SHE TOLD US A RIDICULOUS STORY HOPING TO BUY US WITH THAT SHAM OF THE SHINY NECKLACE!
YOU'RE SCARED, CORNELIA. IS THAT IT?

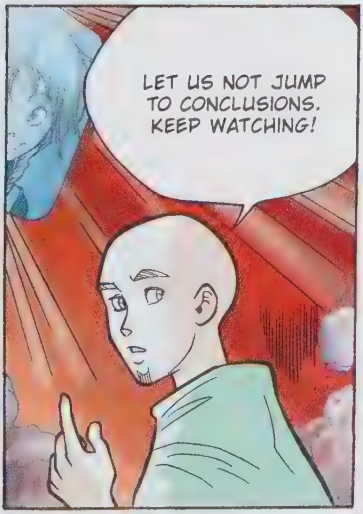
I DON'T BELIEVE IN FAIRY TALES, IRMA, AND NOW, I'M GOING BACK HOME!
M-ME TOO!
I'M COMING WITH YOU!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? WE COULD'VE BEEN SOME KINDA SUPER-GROUP!
W.I.T.C.H.!
SORRY, HAY LIN?
THEY'RE OUR INITIALS! I...I WROTE 'EM ON MY HAND, A KIND OF ACRONYM, BUT....
OH, WELL.
NEVER MIND!
NEVER MIND? I'D NEVER SAY ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
YOU WOULD, HAY LIN, AND YOU DID! AT LEAST IN THIS ALTERNATE PAST!

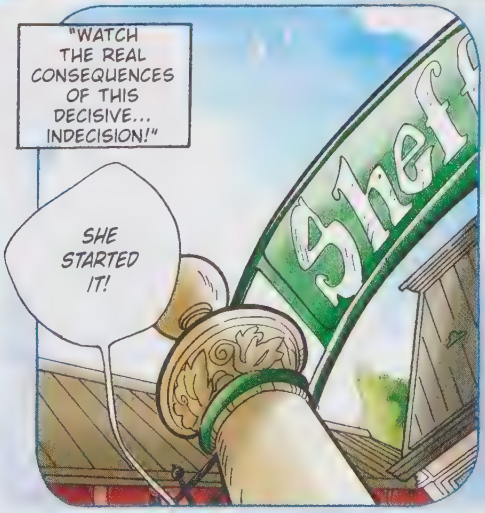

SO WE...I MEAN... THEY WOULDA SPLIT UP 'COS OF ME! WHY DO I FREEZE THIS WAY?
EVEN WHEN WE ARE INDECISIVE, SOMEHOW WE MAKE DECISIONS.


BUT HERE COMES ELYON. SHE HAS BEEN BRAIN-WASHED INTO LURING YOU INTO A TRAP...


...IN THE SCHOOL GYM! THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED IN OUR PAST!
BUT IN THIS PAST, IRMA AND HAY LIN DON'T FEEL LIKE FOLLOWING HER, SO...


...EVIL WILL HAVE TO TEMPORARILY GIVE UP ON ITS PLANS.
SO ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL.


LET US NOT JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS. KEEP WATCHING!

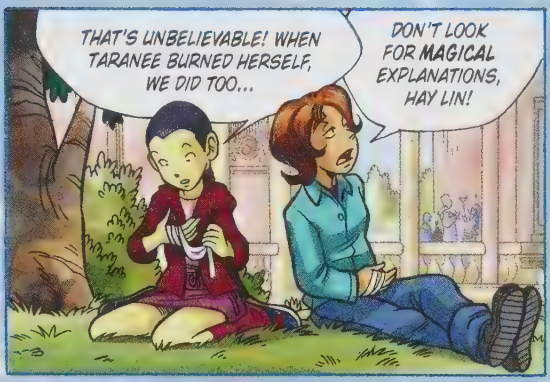

"WATCH THE REAL CONSEQUENCES OF THIS DECISIVE... INDECISION!"
SHE STARTED IT!

I JUST SAID THAT LAST NIGHT YOU COULDA STOPPED FOR A CHAT...
...INSTEAD OF RUNNING AWAY! I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID, AND I'M WARNING YOU, IRMA...
...I REFUSE TO PUT UP WITH YOUR DIGS ANYMORE!
I'M SO SCARED! MY LEGS ARE LIKE JELLY!
WE'D BETTER GET TO CLASS! RIGHT, IRMA?
I WILL...
MPH!
I'M SORRY! IT'S ALL MY FAULT THE GROUP FELL APART.
BAH. DON'T TAKE ALL THE CREDIT. WHEN WAS THERE EVER A GROUP?
WE'RE JUST GIRLS WHO MET, THEN WENT OUR SEPARATE WAYS. THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT!

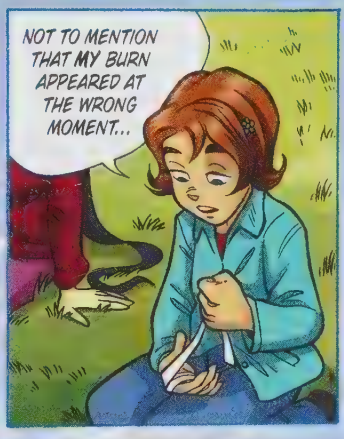
IS THIS ALL, MISS COOK?
EXCUSE ME, MR. GRAY?
TO GET A CHEMICAL REACTION, LOOKING AT THE CONTAINER ISN'T ENOUGH— YOU HAVE TO FILL IT!
I'M WARNING YOU. IF YOU DON'T TRY HARDER, WE CAN LEAVE THE LAB AND GET BACK TO THEORY!
BORING!
OH NO, MR. GRAY!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? SINCE I REALIZED I WON'T HAVE ANY MAGICAL POWERS...
...ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS...
...FIRE!

EMERGENCY!
WHAT NOW? THIS IS THE SCHOOL INFIRMARY, NOT THE E.R.!
MY STUDENT BURNED HERSELF IN THE CHEMISTRY LAB!
THAT'S ODD. THE SAME HAND, AND IN THE SAME SPOT!
?!
BUT THEY JUST FEEL WARM, WHILE YOU ACTUALLY HAVE A LIGHT BURN!
THEY... WHO?
COME...COME! A DROP OF OINTMENT SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR YOU TOO. NOW TAKE A SEAT...
...WITH THE OTHERS!

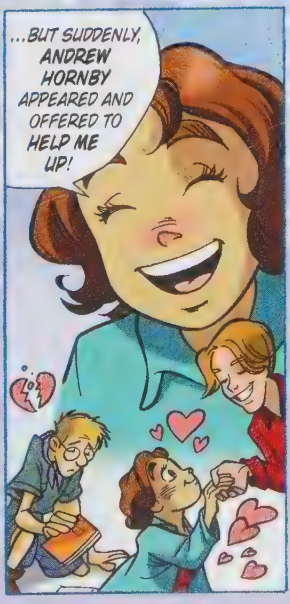
THE SAME HAND! IN THE SAME SPOT!

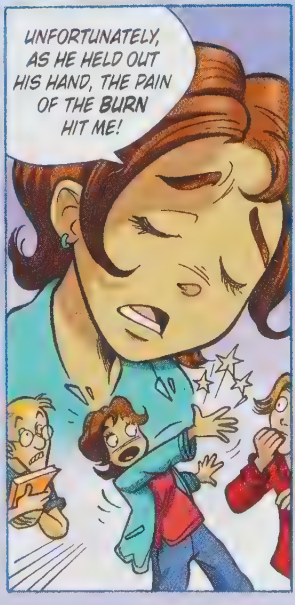

THAT'S UNBELIEVABLE! WHEN TARANEE BURNED HERSELF, WE DID TOO...
DON'T LOOK FOR MAGICAL EXPLANATIONS, HAY LIN!

I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH THEM ANYMORE! SEEING THEM IN THE INFIRMARY WAS ANNOYING ENOUGH!


NOT TO MENTION THAT MY BURN APPEARED AT THE WRONG MOMENT...

THAT CLUMSY MARTIN KNOCKED ME OVER IN THE HALL!
SORRY, CUPCAKE! FORGIVE ME, PUMPKIN...

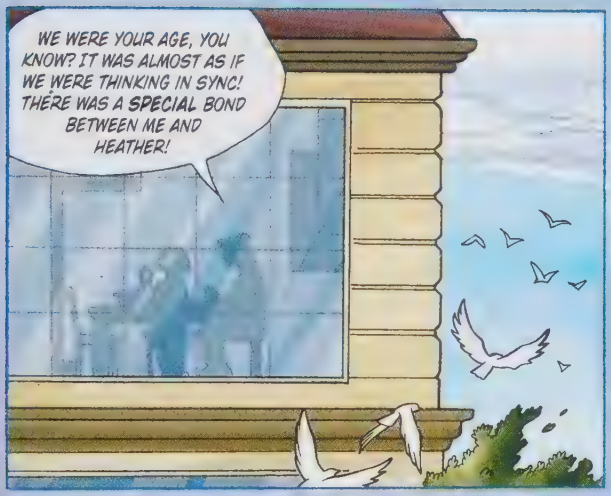

...BUT SUDDENLY, ANDREW HORNBY APPEARED AND OFFERED TO HELP ME UP!


UNFORTUNATELY, AS HE HELD OUT HIS HAND, THE PAIN OF THE BURN HIT ME!

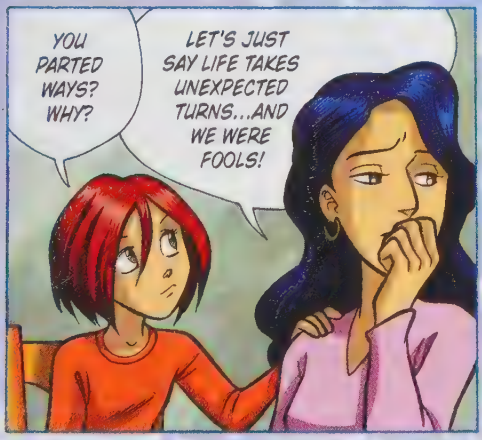
SO I MADE A FOOL OF MYSELF TWICE IN FRONT OF THE CUTEST BOY IN SCHOOL!
SPEAKING OF BOYS...LOOK!
OH! WILL'S EYEING MATT AGAIN...THE GUY FROM THE BAND THAT PLAYED AT THE PARTY...
?
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING? MY VISION BLURRED FOR A SECOND, AND...
...MATT WAS IN FRONT OF ME! IT'S LIKE HE WAS RIGHT HERE!
HUH? HAY LIN?
OOF! M-MATT! THAT MATT! I SAW HIM TOO...
...SO I DIDN'T SEE THE TREE!

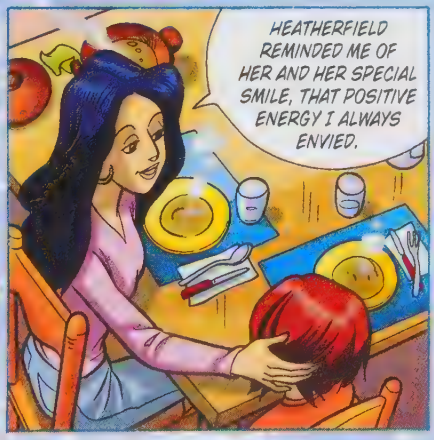
...GET IT? SHE DIDN'T SEE THE TREE!
THAT'S NOT FUNNY... POOR HAY LIN! WHEN SHE TOLD ME, HER NOSE WAS STILL SWOLLEN.
FRAGILE
BESIDES, CORNELIA, YOU SAID YOU SAW MATT TOO, AS IF YOU WERE WATCHING HIM THROUGH MY EYES!
FIRST, TARANEE'S BURN, AND NOW, THIS... I THINK...
C'MON, WILL! DINNER'S READY!
I GOTTA GO! SEE YOU LATER AT YOUR PLACE, OKAY?
YOU'VE MADE A LOT OF FRIENDS SINCE WE MOVED HERE. AND TO THINK YOU HATED THIS CITY.
FRIENDS? THAT'S A BIT MUCH... WE JUST MEET UP TO STUDY.

SAY, MOM, WHY EXACTLY DID YOU DECIDE TO MOVE TO HEATHERFIELD?
YOU KNOW WHY!*
*THAT WAS IN THE W.I.T.C.H. SPECIAL "ONE YEAR EARLIER."
THE THING IS... UM...SOMETIMES I THINK US COMING HERE WASN'T ENTIRELY BY CHANCE!
YOU'RE PARTLY RIGHT. REMEMBER MY FRIEND HEATHER?
THE ONE WHO LIVES IN KLAREVILLE AND SENDS YOU CHRISTMAS CARDS EVERY YEAR?
THAT'S THE ONE. IF I TELL YOU HOW SHE'S INVOLVED, PROMISE NOT TO LAUGH?
I SWEAR.
THEN YOU SHOULD KNOW HER LAST NAME IS SHIELD—HEATHER SHIELD—AND REMEMBER, YOU PROMISED!
THAT'S NOT FUNNY! WE MOVED HERE BECAUSE THE STUPID NAMES RHYME?
DON'T MAKE SUCH A BIG DEAL, WILL. AFTER ALL, YOU KNOW THE REAL REASON...
...AND THERE'S NOTHING STUPID ABOUT TRUE FRIENDSHIP!


WE WERE YOUR AGE, YOU KNOW? IT WAS ALMOST AS IF WE WERE THINKING IN SYNC! THERE WAS A SPECIAL BOND BETWEEN ME AND HEATHER!

SOMETHING THAT EVENTUALLY GOT LOST IN TIME...


YOU PARTED WAYS? WHY?
LET'S JUST SAY LIFE TAKES UNEXPECTED TURNS...AND WE WERE FOOLS!


HEATHERFIELD REMINDED ME OF HER AND HER SPECIAL SMILE, THAT POSITIVE ENERGY I ALWAYS ENVIED.

SOMETIMES ADULTS ARE EMBARRASSED TO SAY SO BECAUSE IT MIGHT SEEM SILLY...

...BUT WE'VE ALL HAD AT LEAST ONE FRIEND DEAR TO OUR HEART!

STUPID FRIENDS!
THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK, IRMA! YOUR FATHER ONLY ASKED YOU HOW YOUR FRIENDS—
AT THE MOMENT, I ONLY HAVE ONE FRIEND, AND HER NAME IS HAY LIN!
LEAVE IT, ANNA. WHEN SHE WANTS TO BE SOUR, SHE'S WORSE THAN A LEMON!
HMM...LET'S SEE IF I CAN SWEETEN HER UP!
A CAKE!
TRIPLE CHOCOLATE! TERRIBLE FOR PIMPLES BUT ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS!
HEH-HEH! SHE COULD EAT IT IN A SINGLE BITE!
ACTUALLY, CHRISTOPHER, I DON'T THINK MANY PEOPLE COULD!
GROWL
OOOH! MY BELLY! AND TO THINK I HAD A LIGHT LUNCH!

-SNIFF- AND WHERE'S THAT SWEET SMELL COMING FROM ? SMELLS LIKE...
BURNING FAT!
THIS STINK IS YOUR FATHER'S FAULT! HE MADE A MESS IN THE KITCHEN!
I CAME UP TO TELL YOU TO OPEN ALL THE WINDOWS!
WHY? I LIKE IT!
?
TO ME, IT DOESN'T SMELL LIKE SOMETHING BURNING, MORE LIKE...
...FLOWERS! THE SCENT OF FLOWERS!
SO, WILL, YOU FELT STUFFED EARLIER TOO...
...YEAH! LIKE I SCARFED DOWN A TON OF CHOCOLATE! EXACTLY!

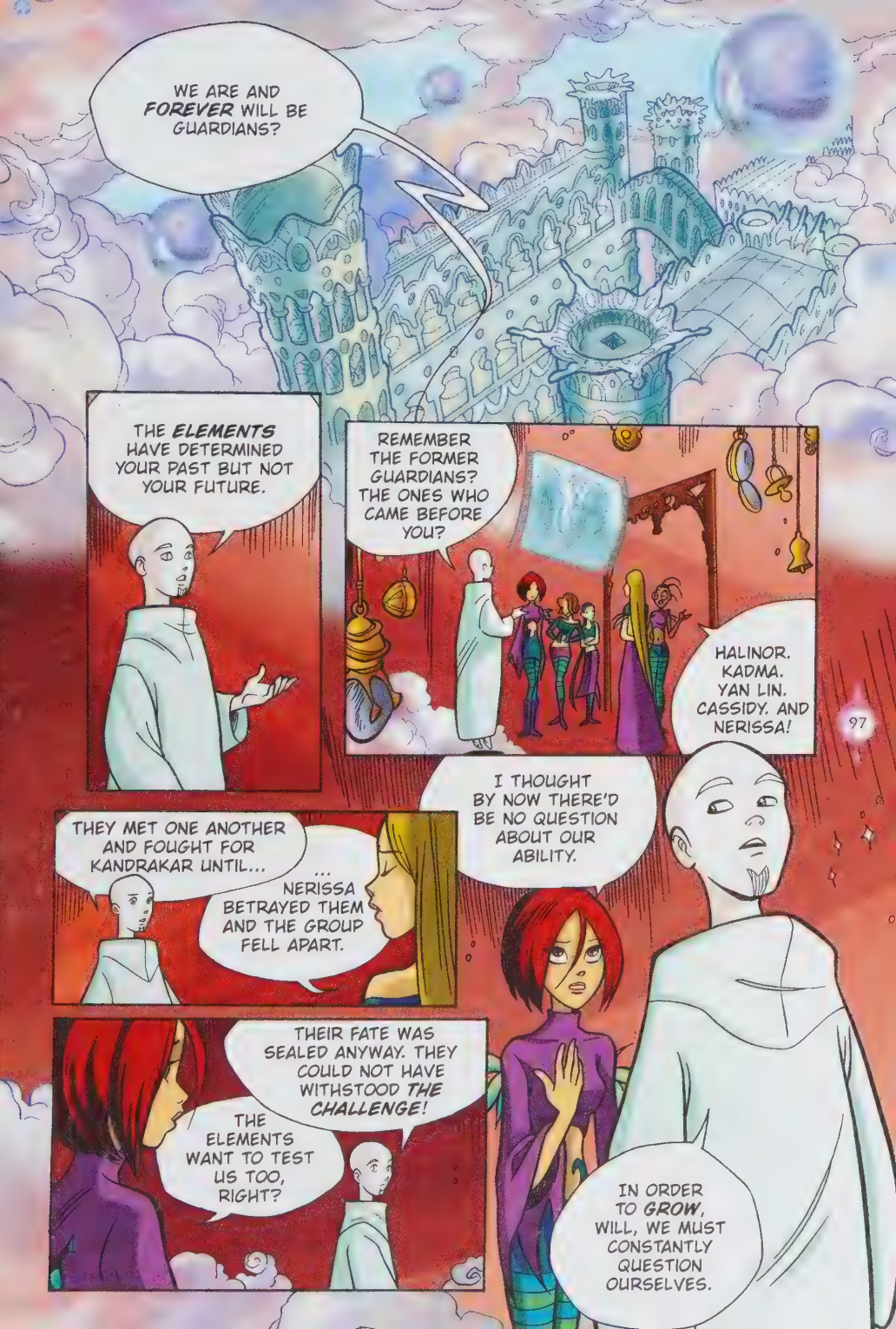
THEN, WHEN I WALKED INTO YOUR HOUSE, I SMELLED SUCH AN INTENSE PERFUME...
HANG ON. TELL ME IF YOU RECOGNIZE IT!
HMM...THAT'S IT! HOW COULD I HAVE SMELLED IT FROM THE STAIRS?
I JUST KNOW THIS IS MY FAVORITE PLANT...
...AND I WAS SMELLING IT A MOMENT AGO!
FIRST, TARANEE'S BURN! THEN, THE VISION OF MATT! AND THEN...
WAIT A MINUTE!
C'MON, LILIAN! WE'RE STUDYING! TURN THAT RADIO DOWN!
WH-WHICH RADIO? I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING!
?!

EMPATHY!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS?
RIGHT NOW, I KNOW WHAT ANTIPATHY IS...WILL THAT DO?
IRMA, STOP IT! WILL CALLED US TO TELL US SOMETHING IMPORTANT!
HUH? I THOUGHT YOU WERE ON MY SIDE.
EMPATHY IS A KIND OF SHARING OF FEELINGS...
IT HAPPENS WHEN A PERSON IDENTIFIES WITH SOMEONE ELSE!
BUT...
LET HER FINISH. SHE WAS RESEARCHING ALL AFTERNOON TO PREPARE THIS SPEECH!
THAT'S WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US! WE'RE EMPATHETIC! WE COMMUNICATE THROUGH OUR EMOTIONS!

WHEN TARANEE BURNED HERSELF, SHE SHARED HER PAIN AND FEELINGS IN THAT MOMENT WITH US.
THEN, IT WAS MY TURN. LOOKING AT THAT GUY... MATT...WELL, I...
WE GET IT—AND NO GIGGLING!
THEN, IT HAPPENED WITH IRMA. SHE LOVES THAT KIND OF CHOCOLATE CAKE!
MOM MAKES IT!
THEN, IT WAS CORNELIA'S TURN, WITH THE SMELL OF YOUR FLOWERS.
BUT THAT WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE MUSIC!
RIGHT, HAY LIN?
SO? I WAS JUST LISTENING TO A SONG BY KARMILLA... YOUR FAVORITE, IRMA!
THEN IT'S YOUR FAULT I COULDN'T STUDY! YOU COULD'VE TURNED THE VOLUME DOWN!
I DUNNO IF MAGIC'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT, BUT WE'RE STILL IN CONTACT!

THINK ABOUT IT, TARANEE, TOUCH. ME, SIGHT. IRMA, TASTE...
...CORNELIA, SMELL. AND HAY LIN...HEARING!
THE FIVE SENSES!
YES, FIVE! LIKE US. OR LIKE A SINGLE PERSON!
AFTER A CHAT WITH MY MOM...THAT'S WHEN I UNDERSTOOD AND DECIDED TO RISK IT.
YES. FROM NOW ON, I'M LEAVING FEAR TO SOMEONE WHO ISN'T LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE FRIENDS...
...LIKE YOU!

SO THE HEART OF KANDRAKAR APPEARED A SECOND TIME, GIVING YOU BACK...
...YOUR POWERS AND TRUST!
SO WE WOULD'VE BECOME GUARDIANS ANYWAY, JUST ONE DAY LATER.
WE CAN LOOK AT AS MANY ALTERNATE PASTS AS YOU LIKE, BUT NOTHING WOULD CHANGE.
WHY, ORACLE? YOU SAID THAT CHANGE IS THE NATURE OF THINGS.
WELL, WILL, THIS IS THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE!
YOU ARE THE CHOSEN ONES, AND YOUR PAST IS DETERMINED BY A SPECIAL, EXTRAORDINARY FORCE!
SOMETHING THAT CAN DEFY EVEN THE MOST IMPENETRABLE MYSTERY OF THE UNIVERSE—
DESTINY!

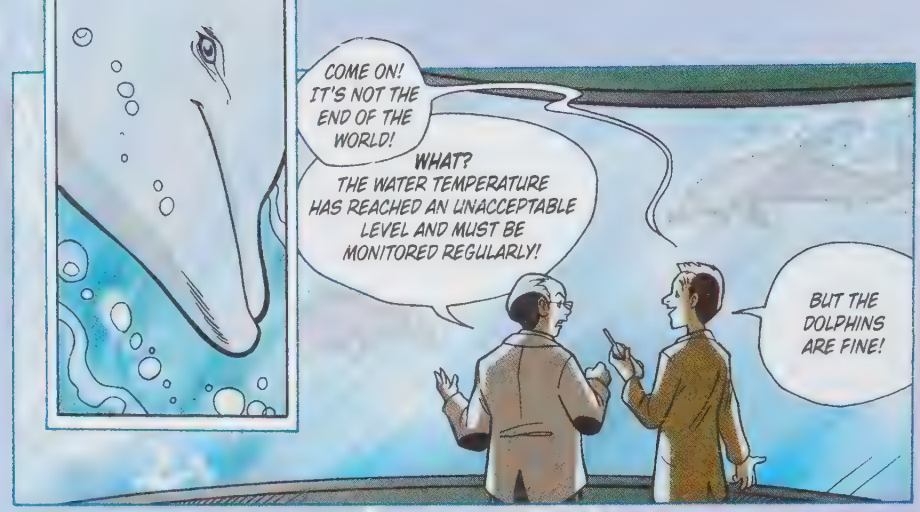

WE ARE AND FOREVER WILL BE GUARDIANS?
THE ELEMENTS HAVE DETERMINED YOUR PAST BUT NOT YOUR FUTURE.
REMEMBER THE FORMER GUARDIANS? THE ONES WHO CAME BEFORE YOU?
HALINOR. KADMA. YAN LIN. CASSIDY. AND NERISSA!
97
I THOUGHT BY NOW THERE'D BE NO QUESTION ABOUT OUR ABILITY.
THEY MET ONE ANOTHER AND FOUGHT FOR KANDRAKAR UNTIL...
... NERISSA BETRAYED THEM AND THE GROUP FELL APART.
THEIR FATE WAS SEALED ANYWAY. THEY COULD NOT HAVE WITHSTOOD THE CHALLENGE!
THE ELEMENTS WANT TO TEST US TOO, RIGHT?
IN ORDER TO GROW, WILL, WE MUST CONSTANTLY QUESTION OURSELVES.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I BELIEVE TARANEE AND CORNELIA HAVE A QUESTION.
WELL, I... WE...
SOMETIMES WE WONDER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF...
...IF WE DECIDED TO QUIT—TO GIVE UP OUR POWERS AND EVERYTHING.
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT? A LIFE WITHOUT MAGIC?
JUST A NORMAL LIFE, IRMA. WE NEVER SAID WE DON'T WANT MAGIC.
LOOK CLOSELY. THIS TIME, ITS MAGICAL SANDS WILL FLOW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT...
BUT WE HAVE DOUBTS, AND MAYBE THE HOUR-GLASS CAN HELP US DEAL WITH THEM.
YES. IT CAN SHOW YOU ONE OF MANY POSSIBLE FUTURES.
IN OTHER WORDS, FROM THE PRESENT...

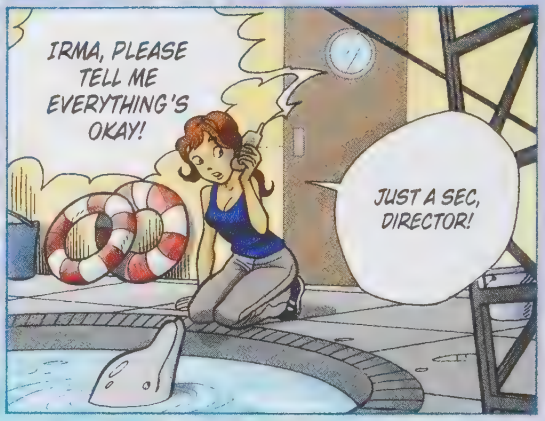
"...TO A POSSIBLE FUTURE..."
OKAY, GUYS, MUSIC OFF. THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.
Accademia di danza
Didja see her? She's so cool!
Yeah, but where does she get the energy? It's like she has...
...a FIRE inside her!
YOU DID GREAT, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO WORK HARDER. YOU HAVE TO FEEL THE RHYTHM!
ADAM, YOU AND ANNABEL WILL DANCE TOGETHER NEXT TIME, OKAY?
YES, MRS. COOK!
JUST CALL ME TARANEE, OKAY?
O-OKAY!
Speaking of things on fire...should I call the fire brigade?
IT'S LATE! A QUICK SHOWER, AND I'M OFF...

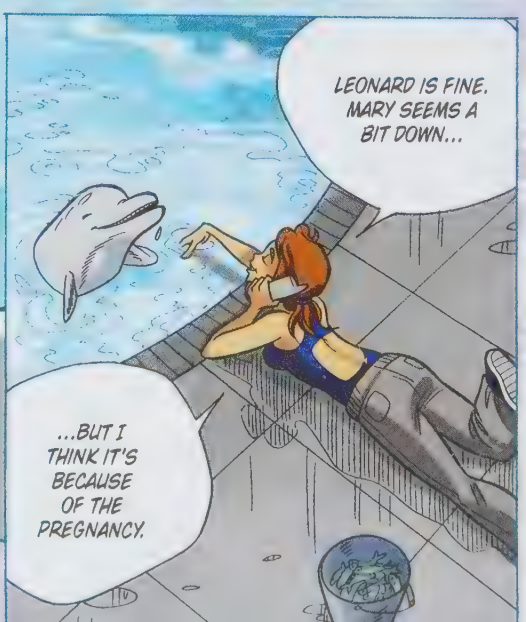
"...TO THE AIRPORT!"
WOOOSSSHH
G8
F4
THE PLANE FROM MIRRORMOUNT LANDED A WHILE AGO, BUT I DON'T SEE HER...
...YET I CAN SENSE HER PRESENCE!
HEY! TARANEE!
FINALLY! ABOUT TIME!
...HAY LIN!

SO ABOUT THAT PARTY... I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
YEAH, START COUNTING...BUT WHEN YOU GET TO A HUNDRED, WAKE UP!
YOUR FIRST LONG-DISTANCE FLIGHT AND ALREADY FIGHTING WITH THE PILOT?
JUST TURNING DOWN AN INVITATION. MY SHIFT'S OVER, AND I'M HAPPY TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH YOU.
HOW'D IT GO WITH YOUR DANCE PRODIGIES?
GREAT, BUT TELL ME ABOUT YOU. YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS JOB FOR SO LONG!
IT WAS AWESOME! I LOVE, LOVE, LOVE FLYING! I'D STAY UP THERE ALL THE TIME!
YOU MEAN... LIKE OLD TIMES?
IT'S NOT THE SAME. WHEN I HAD MY POWERS, I COULDN'T FLY SO HIGH!
AND CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW HARD IT WOULD BE, FLAPPING MY WINGS TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD?


COME ON! IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD!
WHAT? THE WATER TEMPERATURE HAS REACHED AN UNACCEPTABLE LEVEL AND MUST BE MONITORED REGULARLY!
BUT THE DOLPHINS ARE FINE!

GIMME THAT!
IRMA!


IRMA, PLEASE TELL ME EVERYTHING'S OKAY!
JUST A SEC, DIRECTOR!


LEONARD IS FINE. MARY SEEMS A BIT DOWN...
...BUT I THINK IT'S BECAUSE OF THE PREGNANCY.

HELLO. WE'RE LOOKING FOR IRMA LAIR.
MY FAVORITE INTERN. SHE JUST GAVE ME GREAT NEWS!
SHE'S CHECKING THE TANKS. SHE'LL BE RIGHT HERE. AS FOR YOU...
GIMME A BREAK, DIRECTOR! IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
TARANELLY! HAY-HAY!
I FELT YOU ARRIVING! YOU'RE RIGHT ON TIME!
AND YOU'RE A MESS! EVERYTHING OKAY?
I HAVEN'T EATEN TODAY. BETWEEN THE AQUARIUM AND THE UNIVERSITY, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO SEE ANYONE ANYMORE.
ARE YOU STILL SEEING THAT HANDSOME HUNK WITH THE BROAD SHOULDERS?
HE'S WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE. LET'S GO...WE HAVE A MEETING!
STAFF ONLY
BY THE WAY, WHY ISN'T CORNELIA ...?

"...HERE YET?"
SKREEEEEEEEK
SORRY! I'VE GOT TO GET THE BRAKES CHECKED!
=COUGH= =COUGH=
HAVE YOUR HEAD CHECKED TOO, CORNY! THAT'S NO WAY TO DRIVE!
I WAS RUNNING LATE AND DID MY BEST. HOP IN!
THERE WAS A LANDSLIDE JUST OUTSIDE TOWN. UPROOTED TREES! DIRT EVERYWHERE!
BY THE WAY, I HOPE THIS IS MUD ON THE SEAT...
LOOK AT MISS PERFECTION NOW! IF SOMEONE HAD TOLD ME A FEW YEARS AGO, I WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED IT!
MY FATHER DOESN'T BELIEVE IT EITHER. HE WANTS ME TO QUIT THE FOREST RANGERS. HE THINKS I SHOULD GO BACK TO SCHOOL AND MAYBE MANAGE A BANK LIKE HIM. CAN YOU PICTURE THAT?

DAD STILL DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT I CAN MAKE MY OWN DECISIONS NOW.
BUT NEVER MIND. WILL'S WAITING AT MS. RUDOLPH'S HOUSE, RIGHT?
YEAH. AND TO THINK WE COULD'VE SPENT THIS ANNIVERSARY DOING SOMETHING ELSE.
WE SHOULD CELEBRATE! TODAY'S THE DAY WE DECIDED TO GIVE UP OUR POWERS!
WE SAID ENOUGH TO INTERDIMENSIONAL BATTLES, MONSTERS, BEAMS OF LIGHT...
...BASICALLY, TO FUN!
STILL COMPLAINING, IRMA?
NOT AT ALL. I STILL HAVE PLENTY OF PROBLEMS, AND WHEN I WAS MAGICAL, GUYS DIDN'T EVEN LOOK AT ME!
THE THING IS, SOMETIMES IT SEEMS IT WAS JUST A LONG DREAM!

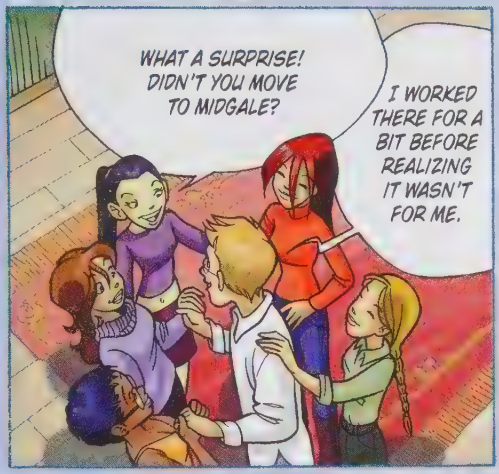
IT'S NOT ALL GONE, THOUGH. WE STILL HAVE OUR ETERNAL GIFTS!*
*A KIND OF MAGICAL SUBSTANCE THAT REMAINS DORMANT INSIDE GUARDIANS EVEN AFTER LEAVING THEIR ROLES.
EXACTLY! I HAVE A PRIVILEGED RELATIONSHIP WITH AQUATIC CREATURES.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHY YOU DECIDED TO BECOME A VETERINARIAN.
IT WAS BECAUSE OF THAT BLOND GUY YOU DUMPED...WHAT WAS HIS NAME?
YOU DO REALIZE YOU'RE HILARIOUS? YOU SHOULD'VE BECOME A STAND-UP COMEDIAN, NOT A PSYCHOLOGIST!
GOOD! APART FROM THE FACT THAT I'M THE FIRST TO GET FIRED UP OVER NOTHING!
BY THE WAY, HOW'S YOUR THESIS ABOUT CONFLICT MANAGEMENT GOING?
THE TRUTH IS, MY SUPERVISOR IS USELESS.
LEMME GUESS, YOUR ETERNAL GIFT ISN'T PATIENCE!
YEAH, I NEVER FEEL COLD. NOT SO USEFUL...APART FROM THE FACT THAT I NEVER NEED HEAVY CLOTHES!
YOUR PARENTS AREN'T GIVING UP... THEY KEEP BUYING YOU SWEATERS!

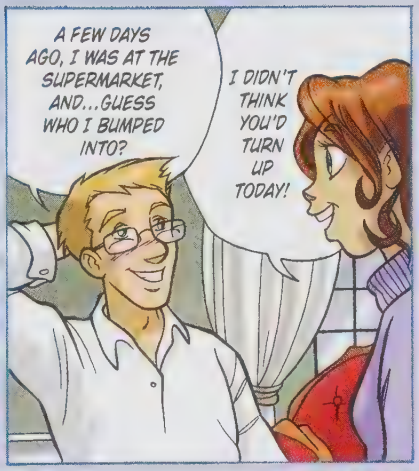
NO POINT BUNDLING UP TODAY. THE TEMPERATURE IS RISING... TOMORROW WILL BE LOVELY!
WHY ARE YOU A FLIGHT ATTENDANT? YOU SHOULD WORK AT THE WEATHER STATION!
SO WITH MY GREEN THUMB, I SHOULD'VE BECOME A FLORIST?
BEEP BEEP BEEP
SEEMS LOGICAL!
IF THE GIFTS REALLY ARE ETERNAL, WE SHOULD USE THEM—MAYBE TO MAKE MONEY!
HELLO? NO, CORNELIA CAN'T TALK NOW. SHE'S DRIVING.
YES, I'LL KISS HER FOR YOU... AND REMEMBER THAT FRIDAY'S DAD'S BIRTHDAY. CALL HIM!
HOW MANY TIMES DOES PETER CALL YOU A DAY?
NOT ENOUGH... AND DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME. IT'S ENOUGH THAT YOUR MOM IS MY FUTURE MOTHER-IN-LAW!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, HAY LIN? HEAD STILL IN THE CLOUDS?
I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT OUR ETERNAL GIFTS AND WILL...

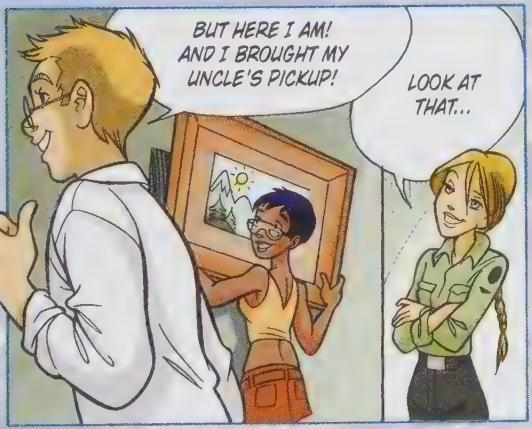
"...SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO STILL HASN'T FOUND HER WAY!"
I'M IN THE STREET! YOU SEE? IN THE STREET!
12345
SCREEK
I'M JUST TELLING YOU TO KEEP YOUR DISTANCE, WILL. YOU CAN'T COME IN HERE!
ANDREW HORNBY!
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?
UM...HI, IRMA. TRY TO MAKE YOUR FRIEND SEE REASON...
I'M JUST DOING MY JOB. THIS HOUSE BELONGS TO THE CITY NOW!
THAT HOUSE WAS OURS FOR YEARS!
YOU HAVE NO PAPERS TO PROVE IT, AND THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF MS. RUDOLPH, THE OWNER, DISAPPEARED YEARS AGO.

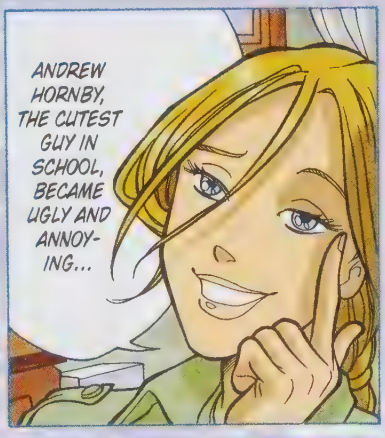
WILL! YOU KNOW MS. RUDOLPH NEVER LEGALLY MADE THIS HOUSE OURS.
BUT IT'S LIKE SHE DID!
IF ONLY ORUBE HADN'T GONE BACK TO BASILIADE...
IT HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO. WITHOUT KANDRAKAR'S MAGICAL SUPPORT...
...IT WAS INEVITABLE SOMEONE WOULD TAKE AN INTEREST IN THIS PROPERTY.
HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT WHEN IRMA'S AROUND, ANDREW GETS MUCH NICER?
LET US IN! I'M ASKING YOU FOR THE LAST TIME!
I-I'M SORRY! YOU'RE HERE ILLEGALLY AND...AND...
OH, VERY WELL. GET YOUR STUFF— BUT HURRY! I GOTTA SEND A REPORT TO THE OFFICE TOMORROW MORNING!
EITHER HE LIKES YOU, OR HE REMEMBERS THAT TIME YOU TURNED HIM INTO A TOAD!*
* AS SEEN IN W.I.T.C.H. CHAPTER 2

I'LL START WITH MY STUFF. YOU TAKE CARE OF YOURS.
DO YOU WANT TO TAKE THE DESK TOO?
YES, IT WAS A PRESENT FROM MATT.
THAT'S ALL I HAVE LEFT FROM OUR RELATIONSHIP...
UM...ACTUALLY, THAT'S NOT THE ONLY PIECE OF FURNITURE WE'VE GOT TO TAKE!
WE'LL MANAGE. I'LL ASK MY MOM IF I CAN BORROW DEAN'S CAR.
BETTER NOT. MR. COLLINS REALLY LOVES HIS CAR!
?
MARTIN! YOU'RE HERE!
HEH-HEH! WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD, CUPCAKE!

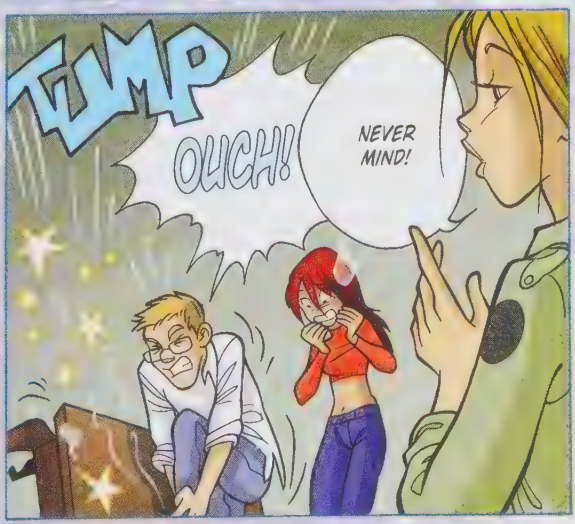

WHAT A SURPRISE! DIDN'T YOU MOVE TO MIDGALE?
I WORKED THERE FOR A BIT BEFORE REALIZING IT WASN'T FOR ME.

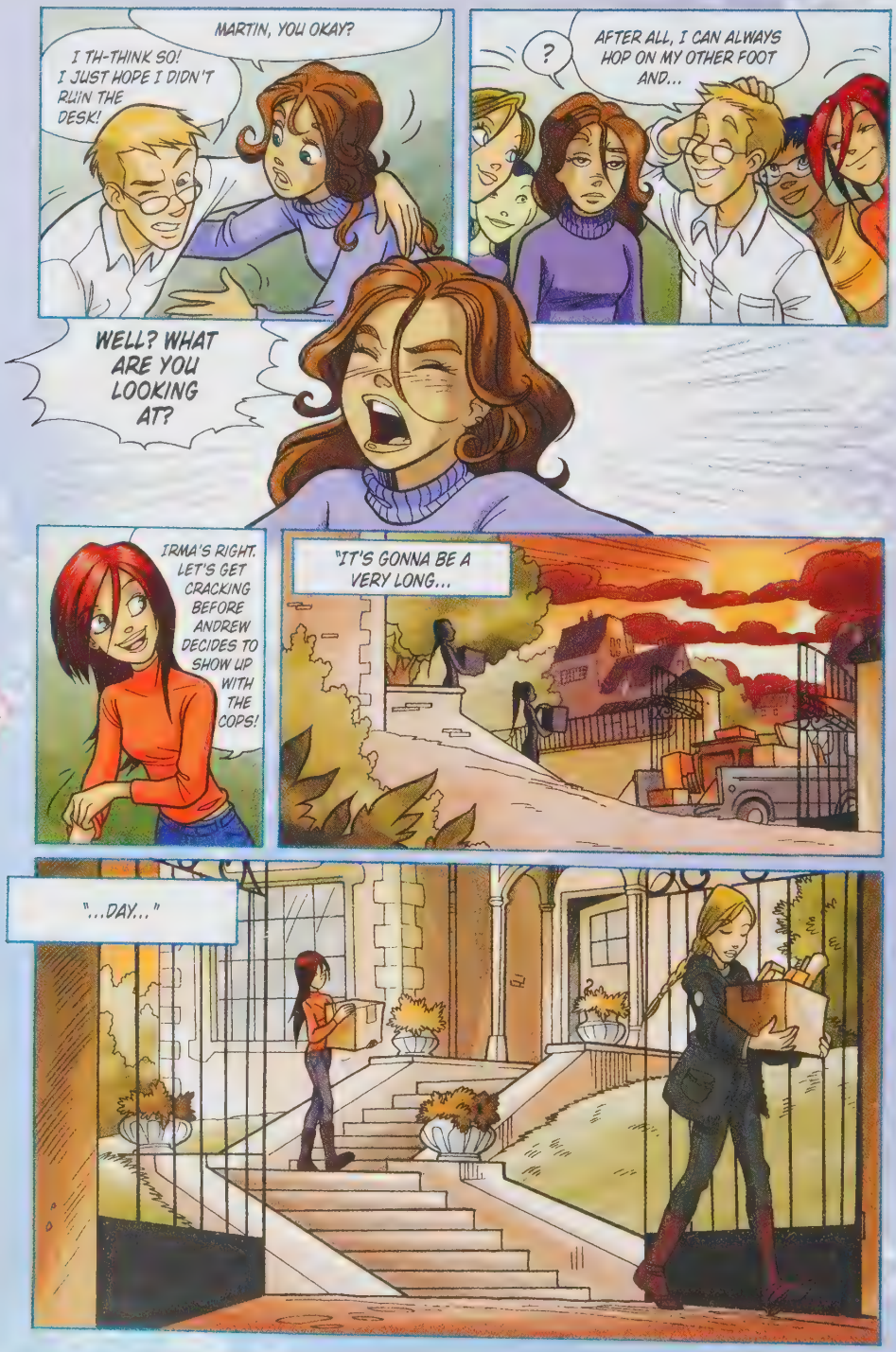

A FEW DAYS AGO, I WAS AT THE SUPERMARKET, AND...GUESS WHO I BUMPED INTO?
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D TURN UP TODAY!


BUT HERE I AM! AND I BROUGHT MY UNCLE'S PICKUP!
LOOK AT THAT...


ANDREW HORNBY, THE CUTEST GUY IN SCHOOL, BECAME UGLY AND ANNOY-ING...

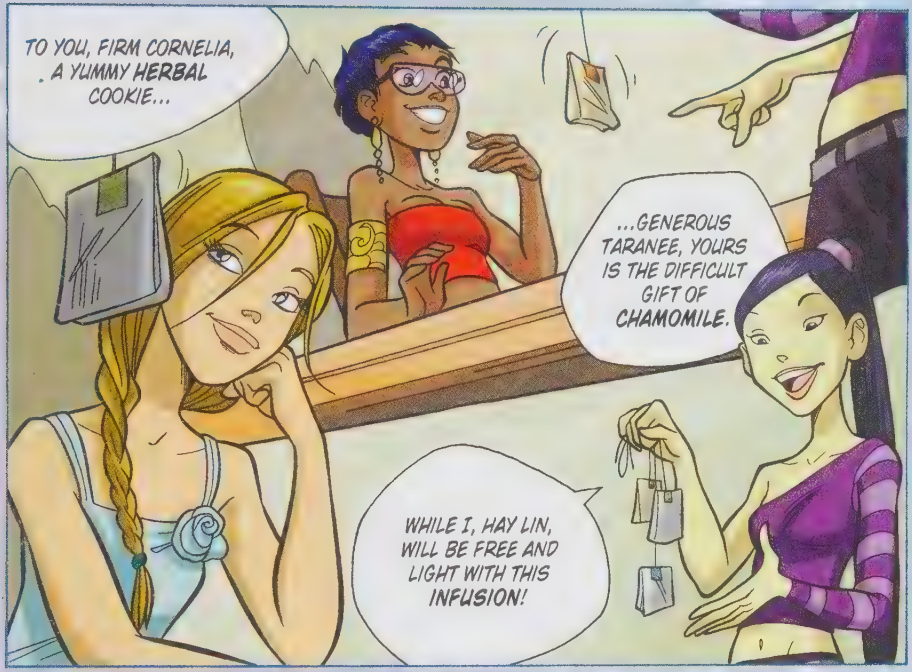
...WHILE MARTIN...
LET ME, WILL! I'M NOT HERCULES, BUT THIS ONE I CAN...


TUMP
OUCH!
NEVER MIND!

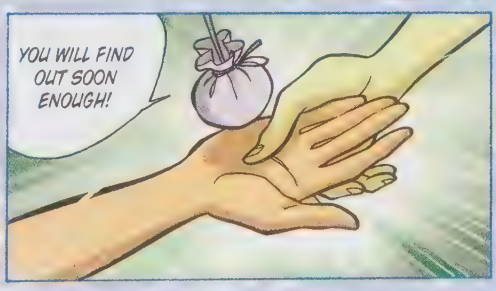

MARTIN, YOU OKAY?
I TH-THINK SO! I JUST HOPE I DIDN'T RUIN THE DESK!
?
AFTER ALL, I CAN ALWAYS HOP ON MY OTHER FOOT AND...
WELL? WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
IRMA'S RIGHT. LET'S GET CRACKING BEFORE ANDREW DECIDES TO SHOW UP WITH THE COPS!
"IT'S GONNA BE A VERY LONG...
"...DAY..."

BYE!
I'M OFF! SEE YOU TOMORROW TO UNLOAD THE PICKUP.
OKAY! AND THANKS!
I'M EXHAUSTED! IF WE STILL HAD OUR POWERS...
...WE COULD'VE TELEPORTED EVERYTHING IN AN INSTANT!
YEAH. AND ANDREW HORNBY WOULD BE CROAKING IN A POND!
OH, IT WASN'T SO BAD! WE MANAGED.
YOU THINK WE GOT IT ALL?
YEAH. IT'S ALL HERE, PACKED AND CATALOGED.
OUR WHOLE PAST!

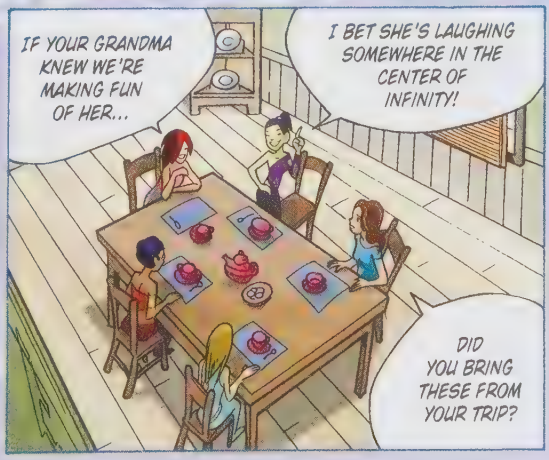
OH, C'MON! THAT CAN'T BE ME! I'M NOT THAT... THAT...
BORING?
NAGGY?
THE YOU IN THE HOURGLASS COULD BE YOU...IF YOU MAKE CERTAIN CHOICES...
I'M NOT LIKE THAT!
YOU UGLY WITCHES!
YOU'RE SEEING ONE POSSIBLE FUTURE, BUT YOU COULD LIVE ANOTHER THOUSAND LIVES— ANOTHER THOUSAND FUTURES!
THANK GOODNESS. THAT ONE WAS THE PITS!
IRMA, "NORMAL" LIFE IS NOT ALWAYS FULL OF ACTION, BUT THAT DOES NOT MAKE IT ANY LESS DIFFICULT OR EXCITING.
NOW, OBSERVE. THIS JOURNEY INTO THE FUTURE IS ABOUT TO END RIGHT WHERE IT ALL STARTED...
"...IN HAY LIN'S KITCHEN!"
YOU, IRMA, WILL HAVE POWER OVER ICED TEA, UNBROKEN AND UNCONTAINABLE...


TO YOU, FIRM CORNELIA, . A YUMMY HERBAL COOKIE...
...GENEROUS TARANEE, YOURS IS THE DIFFICULT GIFT OF CHAMOMILE.
WHILE I, HAY LIN, WILL BE FREE AND LIGHT WITH THIS INFUSION!

AND ME?
GIVE ME YOUR HAND, WILL!


YOU WILL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!

WHAT'S THIS? HEART OF KANDRAKAR-FLAVORED TEA?
NO—IT'S POTPOURRI! IT WOULD BE DISGUSTING AS AN INFUSION, BUT IT SMELLS NICE!

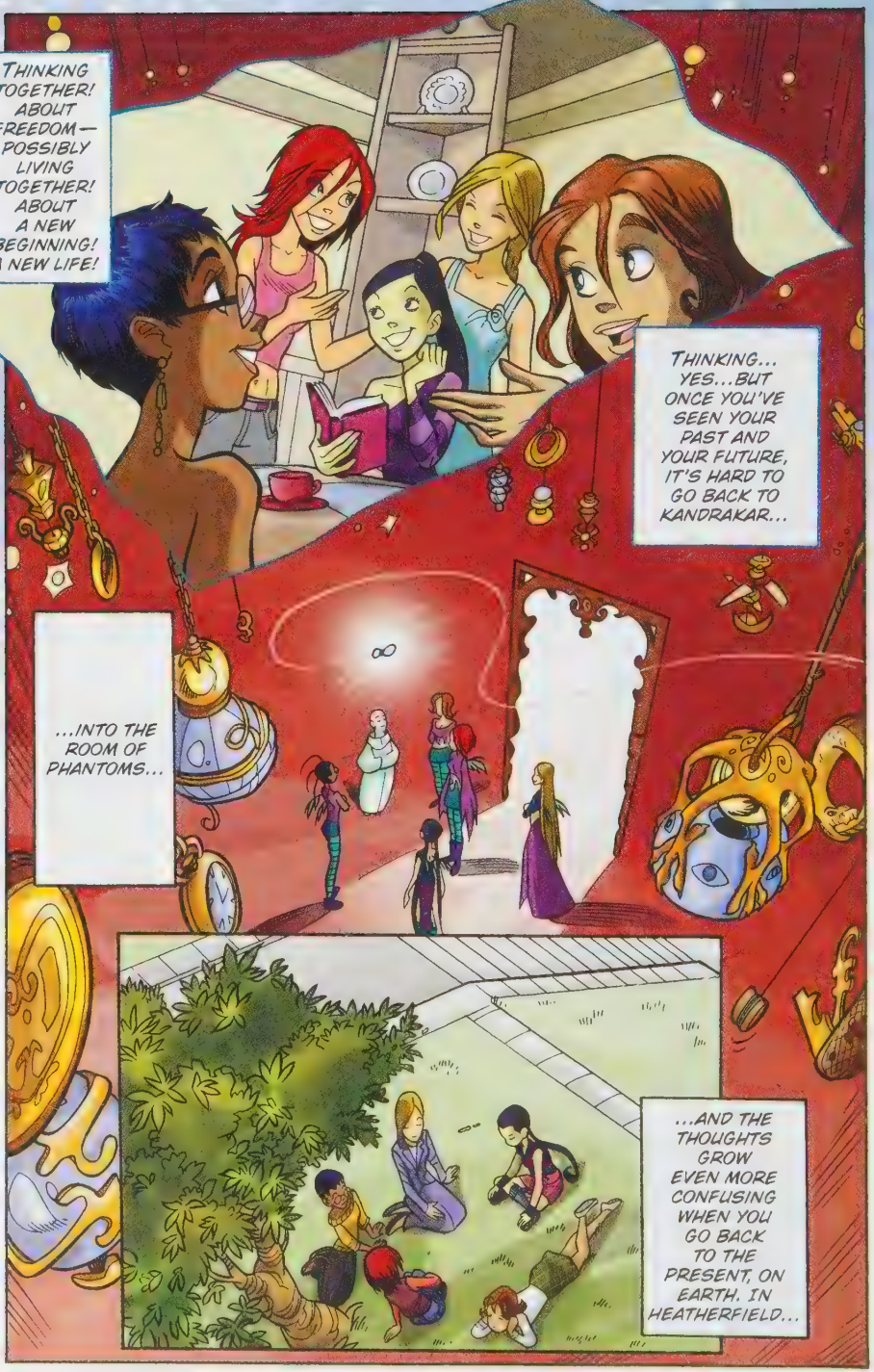

IF YOUR GRANDMA KNEW WE'RE MAKING FUN OF HER...
I BET SHE'S LAUGHING SOMEWHERE IN THE CENTER OF INFINITY!
DID YOU BRING THESE FROM YOUR TRIP?

I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO BUY ANYTHING ELSE AT THE AIRPORT!
ANYWAY, I WAS THE ONE WHO WANTED TO MEET UP. I HAVE AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE!
GUYS, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IN HERE IS MY ETERNAL GIFT!
?
IN ALL THESE YEARS, I WASN'T ABLE TO FIND MY WAY.
I WAS RESTLESS, KEPT CHANGING COURSES IN COLLEGE, AND AFTER MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MATT, I DIDN'T HAVE ANOTHER.
BOOM
YOU REPRESENTED STEADY, CONCRETE ELEMENTS, BUT MY POWER WAS ALWAYS UNDEFINED, FLEETING...
...LIKE THE IMAGINATION!
IT'S MAGICAL ANYWAY

"IT'S MAGICAL ANYWAY"? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
IT MEANS I'VE BECOME A WRITER!
YAY! YOU ROCK, WILL!
WOW!!!
AND...HOW DID IT HAPPEN? WHEN DID IT HAPPEN?
RIGHT AFTER MOVING OUT OF MS. RUDOLPH'S HOUSE!
"MARTIN FOUND A BOX IN HIS PICKUP WITH SOME OF MY MANUSCRIPTS."
?
STUFF I WAS WRITING MOSTLY OUT OF BOREDOM IN OUR OLD HEADQUARTERS.
HANG ON! WHAT'S MARTIN GOT TO DO WITH IT?
DID HE EVER TELL YOU WHAT HIS JOB WAS IN MIDGALE?

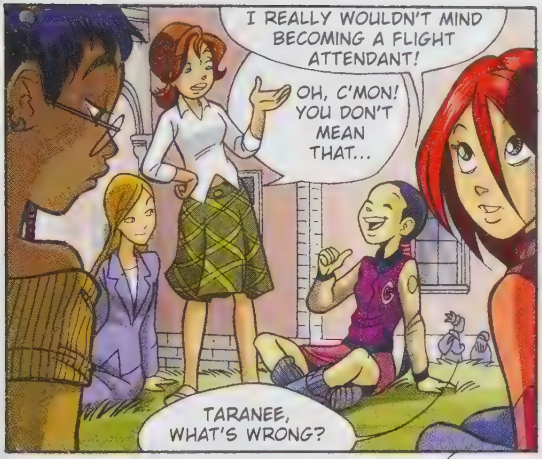
I JUST KNOW HE'S AN EDITOR FOR THE HEATHERFIELD TRIBUNE.
BUT BEFORE THAT, HE WORKED FOR A BIG PUBLISHER SPECIALIZING IN FANTASY NOVELS!
YOU MEAN HE...?
HE READ MY STUFF AND FOUND SOMETHING GOOD!
...THEN HE ASKED IF HE COULD SHOW A FRIEND, AND THIS IS THE RESULT!
A...A CHECK?
I DIDN'T WANT TO JINX IT BY SAYING ANYTHING. IT WAS HARD TO KEEP IT A SECRET!
A CHECK! AND THERE'S LOADS OF ZEROES!
ALL THAT MONEY... THAT'S...
THAT'S OURS! AND IT'S JUST THE ADVANCE!
OF COURSE, IF THE NOVEL BECOMES A BESTSELLER... AND IF THE SEQUEL THAT I'M ABOUT TO WRITE...
HEY, HANG ON A MINUTE!

WE ARE THE PROTAGONISTS OF THIS BOOK?
MORE OR LESS. LET'S SAY THEY'RE FIVE GIRLS WITH SPECIAL POWERS!
OBVIOUSLY, THE ROYALTIES WILL BE SPLIT FIVE WAYS TOO! YOU JUST HAVE TO SIGN THE CONTRACT.
OH, MAN! BATMAN, SPIDER-MAN, SUPERMAN!
WE'RE RICH!
DON'T EXAGGERATE! ONE STEP AT A TIME. AND SPEAKING OF IMPORTANT STEPS...
YESTERDAY'S PAPER. IN A FEW DAYS, THEY'LL PUT MS. RUDOLPH'S HOUSE UP FOR SALE.
ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?


THINKING TOGETHER! ABOUT FREEDOM— POSSIBLY LIVING TOGETHER! ABOUT A NEW BEGINNING! A NEW LIFE!
THINKING... YES...BUT ONCE YOU'VE SEEN YOUR PAST AND YOUR FUTURE, IT'S HARD TO GO BACK TO KANDRAKAR...
...INTO THE ROOM OF PHANTOMS...
...AND THE THOUGHTS GROW EVEN MORE CONFUSING WHEN YOU GO BACK TO THE PRESENT, ON EARTH. IN HEATHERFIELD...

DID THAT REALLY HAPPEN? IS IT REALLY GOING TO HAPPEN?
THE ORACLE WAS CLEAR. HE ONLY SHOWED US ONE EACH OF OUR ALTERNATE PASTS AND FUTURES.
THE REAL QUESTION IS... WHY?
YEAH. IT SHOULD'VE CLEARED UP OUR DOUBTS, BUT IT'S JUST CREATED MORE!
WHAT WERE THE ELEMENTS TRYING TO TELL US? EXPECT A CHANGE? HOW? WHEN?
BALDY IS BACK TO HIS USUAL ANNOYING, ENIGMATIC SELF!
ANYWAY, EVEN WITHOUT POWERS, WE DIDN'T DO TOO BAD!
HEY, GIRLS! HEY, PUMPKIN!
MARTIN! RIGHT ON TIME!
HUH? DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?

NO! BUT MAYBE YOU WILL IN THE FUTURE! SO TAKE THIS!
MWAH!
OUCH!
THUMP
I KNOW WHY I KISSED YOU. THE PUNCH IS SO YOU DON'T GET ANY WEIRD IDEAS!
122
IS THIS HOW YOU PLAN TO CONQUER FUTURE BOYFRIENDS? BY SENDING MIXED SIGNALS?
BAH! I AM AND ALWAYS WILL BE HAPPILY SINGLE!
AS FOR YOU, WATCH OUT! YOU MIGHT REALLY END UP DIGGING ALL DAY!
AND YOU MIGHT SPEND YOUR TIME CHATTING WITH SEALS!


I REALLY WOULDN'T MIND BECOMING A FLIGHT ATTENDANT!
OH, C'MON! YOU DON'T MEAN THAT...
TARANEE, WHAT'S WRONG?

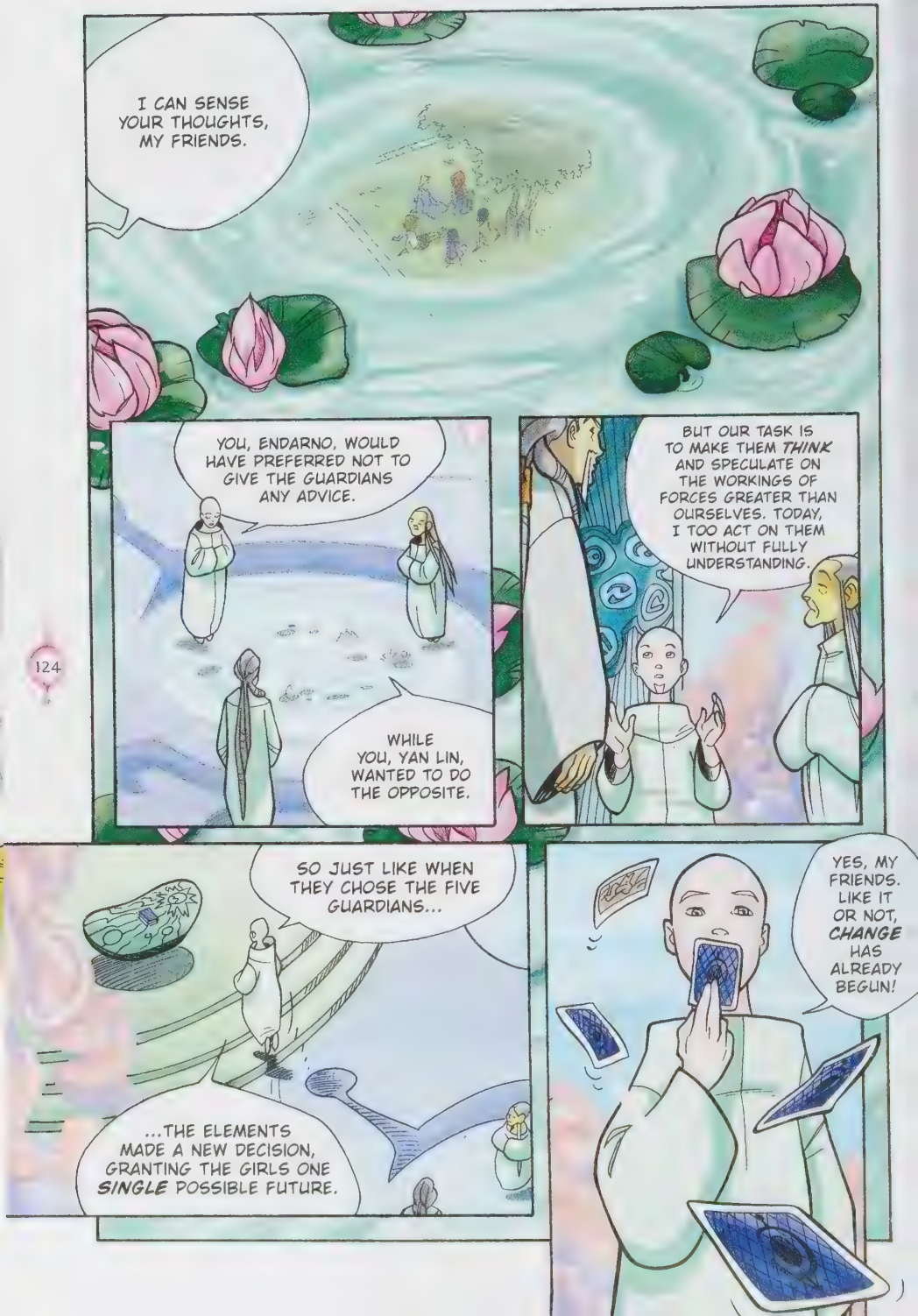
YOU'RE NOT JOINING IN. WHATCHA THINKING ABOUT?
THE FACT THAT MAYBE THE ORACLE JUST TRIED TO MAKE US UNDERSTAND SOMETHING.

AFTER ALL, EVEN WITHOUT POWERS, WE STILL KEPT IN TOUCH.
TRUE! EVEN IN THE FUTURE, WE COULD SENSE EACH OTHER'S PRESENCE.

SO WHAT BINDS US IS STRONGER THAN TIME—AND MAYBE THE ELEMENTS THEMSELVES. IT'S AS IF WE WERE CHOSEN BY A SUPERIOR FORCE!

FOREVER! WHATEVER HAPPENS—THROUGH GOOD TIMES AND BAD!
YEAH! WE'LL BE TOGETHER ANYWAY!

MAGICAL ANYWAY!


I CAN SENSE YOUR THOUGHTS, MY FRIENDS.
YOU, ENDARNO, WOULD HAVE PREFERRED NOT TO GIVE THE GUARDIANS ANY ADVICE.
WHILE YOU, YAN LIN, WANTED TO DO THE OPPOSITE.
BUT OUR TASK IS TO MAKE THEM *THINK* AND SPECULATE ON THE WORKINGS OF FORCES GREATER THAN OURSELVES. TODAY, I TOO ACT ON THEM WITHOUT FULLY UNDERSTANDING.
SO JUST LIKE WHEN THEY CHOSE THE FIVE GUARDIANS...
...THE ELEMENTS MADE A NEW DECISION, GRANTING THE GIRLS ONE *SINGLE* POSSIBLE FUTURE.
YES, MY FRIENDS. LIKE IT OR NOT, *CHANGE* HAS ALREADY BEGUN!

END OF CHAPTER 50

Witch
Will
Irma
Taranee
Cornelia
Hay Lin

51

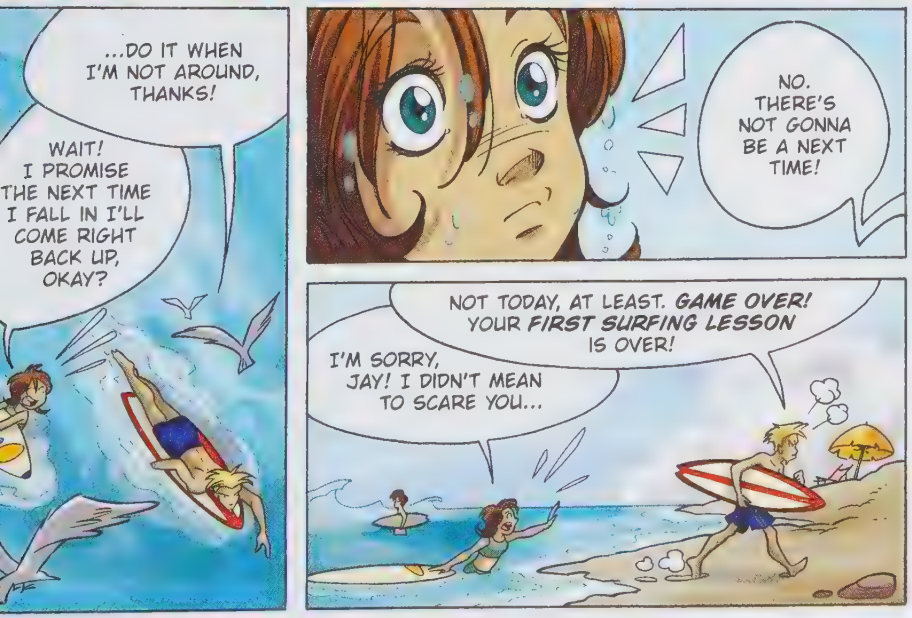
Out of Control

"Some people are really special, like a comforting hug."

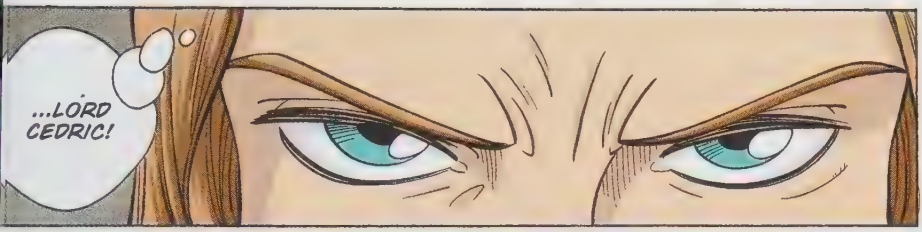
TU-TUMP
TUMP
TU-TUMP
TU-TUMP
TU-TUMP
TUMP
TUMP
TU-TUMP
TU-TUMP
TUMP
TU-TUMP
I'LL TAKE THE LOT!

IRMA!
I'LL TAKE THE LOT!
TUMP TU-TUMP
I'LL TAKE THE LOT!
I'LL TAKE THE LOT!
HOLD ON! I'M COMING!
?

AAAAAH!
PFF! JAY! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
YOU'RE ASKING ME? YOU FALL OFF THE BOARD AND DON'T COME BACK UP...YOU GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK!
-:GULP:-
I THOUGHT YOU KNEW YOU WERE DEALING WITH A MERMAID! GILLS INSTEAD OF LUNGS, Y'KNOW?
OH, YEAH? WELL, LITTLE MERMAID, THE NEXT TIME YOU WANNA TRY FOR THE BREATH-HOLDING RECORD...

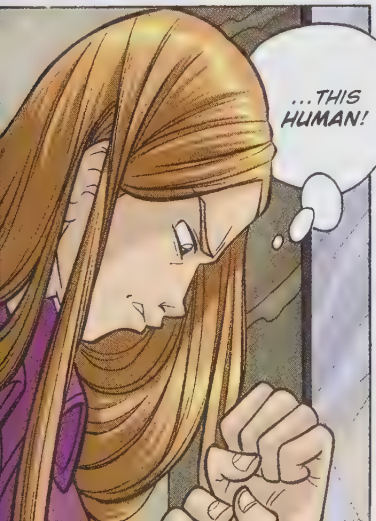

...DO IT WHEN I'M NOT AROUND, THANKS!
WAIT! I PROMISE THE NEXT TIME I FALL IN I'LL COME RIGHT BACK UP, OKAY?
NO. THERE'S NOT GONNA BE A NEXT TIME!
NOT TODAY, AT LEAST. GAME OVER! YOUR FIRST SURFING LESSON IS OVER!
I'M SORRY, JAY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU...

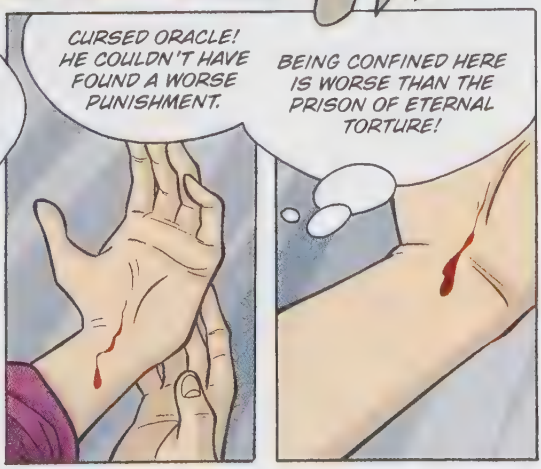
...BUT YOU DID!
I'M GONNA SPEND THE WHOLE NIGHT FREAKING OUT OVER VISIONS OF YOU AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN!
FREAKING OUT OVER VISIONS... YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
FOR DAYS, I'VE BEEN SEEING CRAZY STUFF EVERY TIME I'M AROUND WATER...AND I STILL HAVEN'T HAD THE GUTS TO TELL THE OTHERS.
I MEAN, WHAT CAN I SAY? THAT I SEE A BOOK THAT GIVES ME THE CREEPS?
I CAN ALREADY HEAR CORNELIA...
COME ON, IRMA! A LITTLE STUDY NEVER HURT ANYBODY!
AND...THIS TIME THERE WAS A VOICE...I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED IT. IF ONLY I COULD REMEMBER FOR A MOMENT...
I'M BUYING EVERY-THING!
I'M BUYING EVERY-THING!
THIS VOICE! IT BELONGS TO...

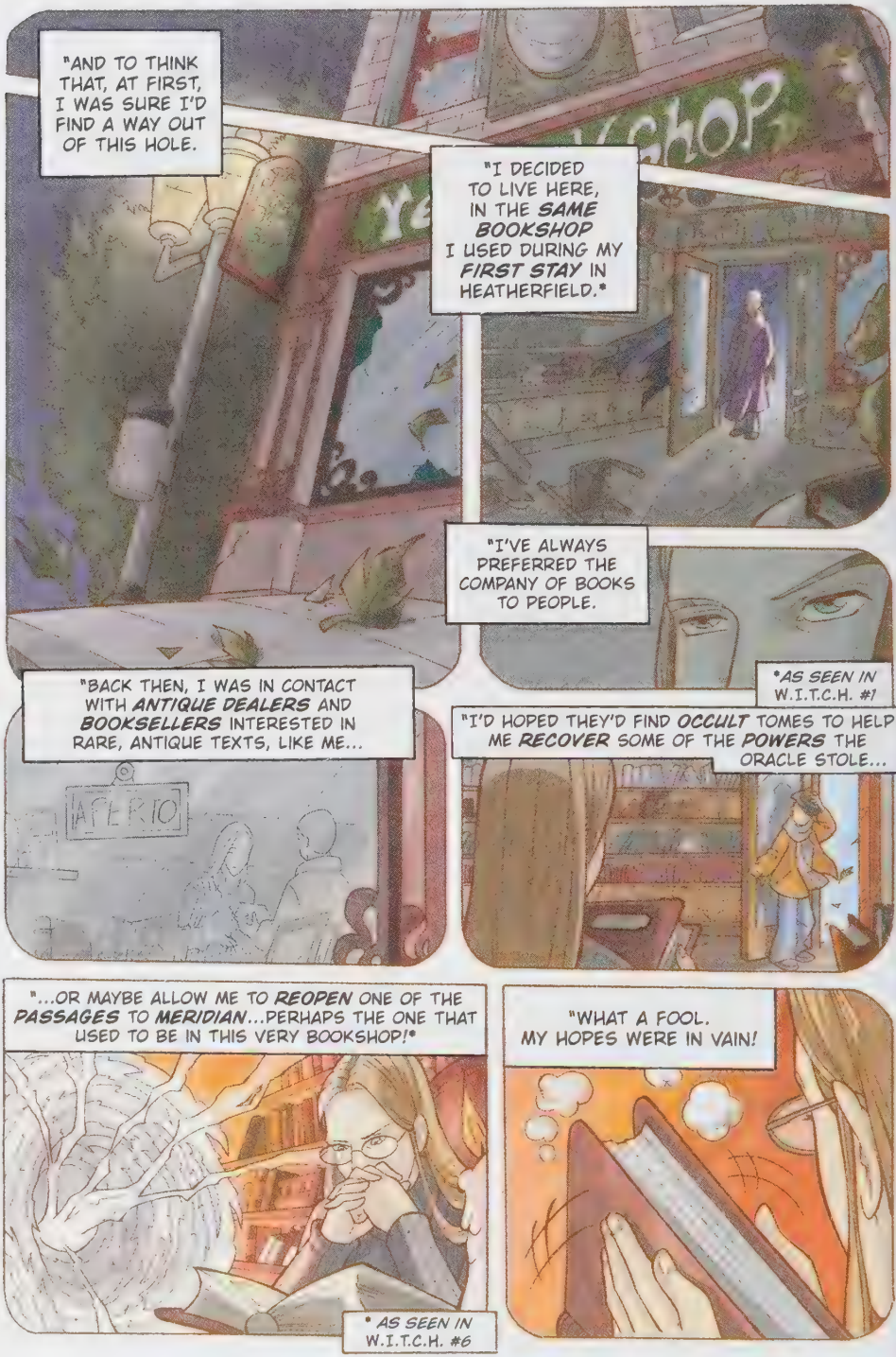

...LORD CEDRIC!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SHREWD SHAPE-SHIFTER I USED TO KNOW? WHERE ARE YOUR POWERS?

WHAT ARE YOU NOW? WHO HAVE YOU BECOME? MAYBE THIS PALE, INSIGNIFICANT EARTHLING?
NO! THIS ISN'T ME! I HATE THIS REFLECTION...
GRASH

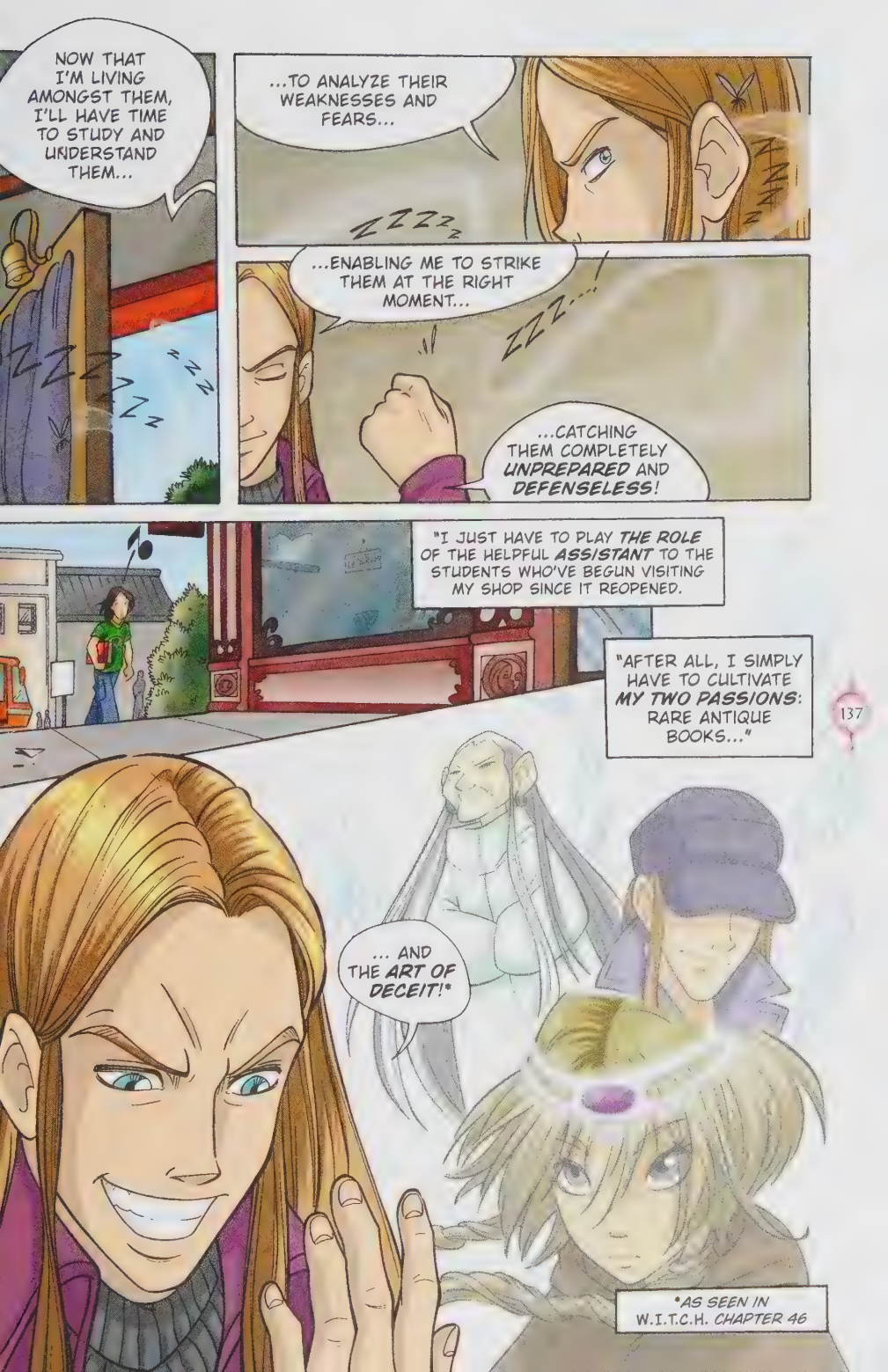

...THIS HUMAN!


CURSED ORACLE! HE COULDN'T HAVE FOUND A WORSE PUNISHMENT.
BEING CONFINED HERE IS WORSE THAN THE PRISON OF ETERNAL TORTURE!


"AND TO THINK THAT, AT FIRST, I WAS SURE I'D FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS HOLE.
"I DECIDED TO LIVE HERE, IN THE SAME BOOKSHOP I USED DURING MY FIRST STAY IN HEATHERFIELD.*
"I'VE ALWAYS PREFERRED THE COMPANY OF BOOKS TO PEOPLE.
*AS SEEN IN W.I.T.C.H. #1
"BACK THEN, I WAS IN CONTACT WITH ANTIQUE DEALERS AND BOOKSELLERS INTERESTED IN RARE, ANTIQUE TEXTS, LIKE ME...
"I'D HOPED THEY'D FIND OCCULT TOMES TO HELP ME RECOVER SOME OF THE POWERS THE ORACLE STOLE...
"...OR MAYBE ALLOW ME TO REOPEN ONE OF THE PASSAGES TO MERIDIAN...PERHAPS THE ONE THAT USED TO BE IN THIS VERY BOOKSHOP!*
* AS SEEN IN W.I.T.C.H. #6
"WHAT A FOOL. MY HOPES WERE IN VAIN!

"IT WAS ALL FAKE— A TRICK!
"MANUALS BY SELF-PROFESSED WIZARDS, BOOKS ABOUT THE INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS OR THE FUTURE.
"NOTHING I GOT MY HANDS ON WAS THE SLIGHTEST BIT HELPFUL...
FZZZZZZ
"...AND WHEN YOU FALL INTO A PIT OF DESPAIR...
WAMP
"...ANGER FLARES UP, VIOLENT AND UNSTOPPABLE!"

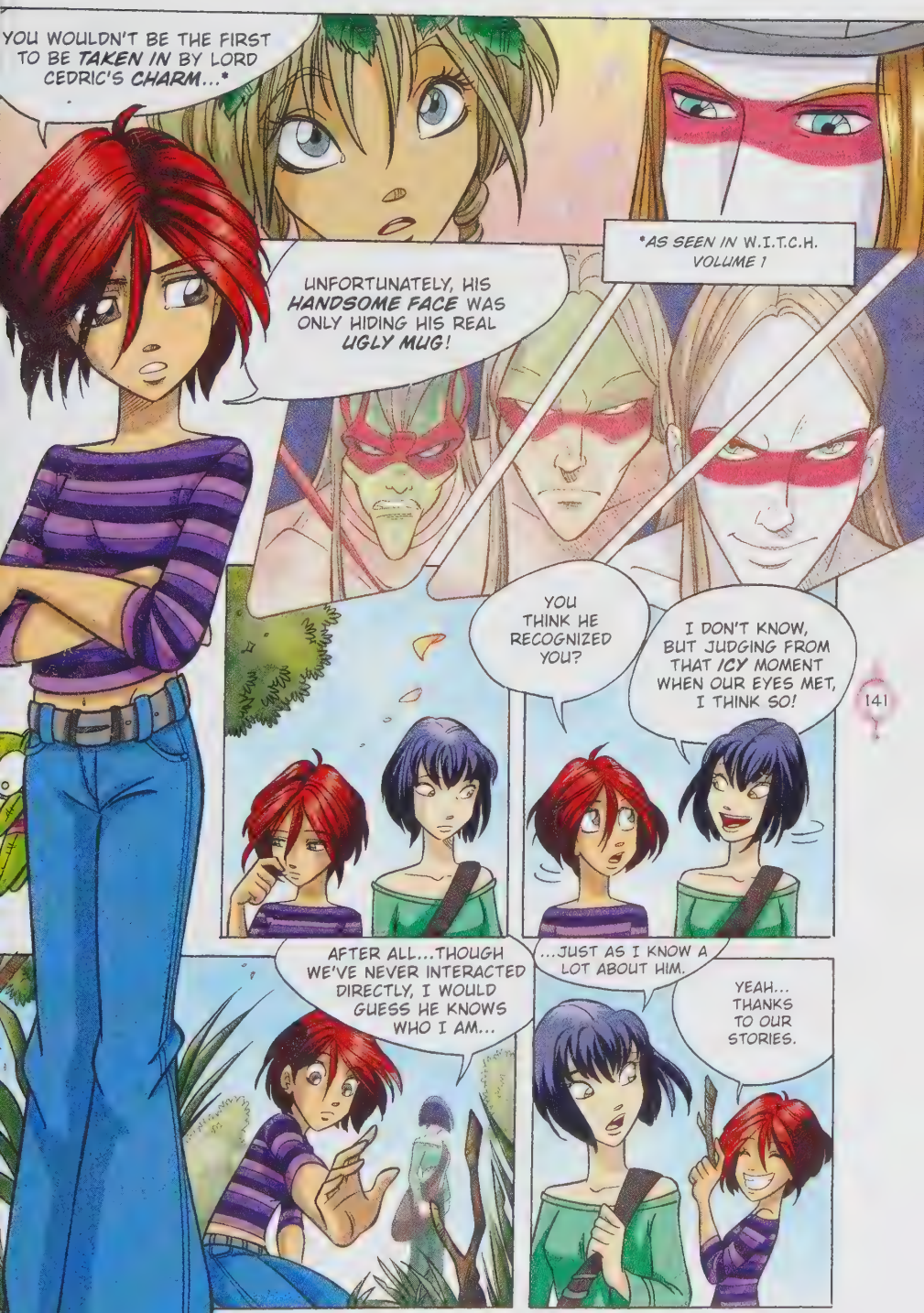
"ANGER TOWARD YOU, ORACLE, AND ESPECIALLY TOWARD...
"...THE FIVE GUARDIANS WHO KEPT THWARTING MY PLANS!
"EVEN IF I NEVER RETURN TO METAMOOR OR GET MY POWERS BACK, MY TIME HERE IN HEATHERFIELD WILL NOT HAVE BEEN IN VAIN...
"...BECAUSE I WILL USE EVERY MEANS AT MY DISPOSAL TO TURN THIS FORCED EXILE...
"...INTO MERCILESS REVENGE AGAINST THOSE FIVE GIRLS!"


NOW THAT I'M LIVING AMONGST THEM, I'LL HAVE TIME TO STUDY AND UNDERSTAND THEM...
...TO ANALYZE THEIR WEAKNESSES AND FEARS...
ZZZZz
...ENABLING ME TO STRIKE THEM AT THE RIGHT MOMENT...
ZZZ...
...CATCHING THEM COMPLETELY UNPREPARED AND DEFENSELESS!
"I JUST HAVE TO PLAY THE ROLE OF THE HELPFUL ASSISTANT TO THE STUDENTS WHO'VE BEGUN VISITING MY SHOP SINCE IT REOPENED.
"AFTER ALL, I SIMPLY HAVE TO CULTIVATE MY TWO PASSIONS: RARE ANTIQUE BOOKS..."
... AND THE ART OF DECEIT!*
*AS SEEN IN W.I.T.C.H. CHAPTER 46

FOR AN INSTANT, MATT'S AND CEDRIC'S EYES MEET...
...RECALLING THE TERRIBLE MOMENT THEY FOUGHT EACH OTHER FOR WILL AND THE HEART OF KANDRAKAR...*
A SINGLE, SHARED EVENT!
*AS SEEN IN W.I.T.C.H. CHAPTER 40

FOR CEDRIC, THAT MEMORY IS CRYSTAL CLEAR, AND IT UNLEASHES A WAVE OF HATRED TOWARD MATT...
YOUNG OLSEN! LOOKS LIKE WE'RE DESTINED TO MEET AGAIN, YOU AND I.
...HATRED HE MANAGES TO HIDE BEHIND A MASK!
BUT THIS TIME I WON'T LET YOU INTERFERE!
FOR MATT, HOWEVER, THE MEMORY IS CONFUSED AND MURKY...
HUH? WHAT'S GOING ON? THAT GUY'S EYES GIVE ME THE CREEPS! I HAVE THE FEELING I'VE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
...BUT WHERE? AND WHEN?
TUMP
THE SHOCK OF THAT UNEXPECTED, FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE CLOUDS HIS MEMORY.
HELLO, YOUNG MAN. MAY I HELP YOU?
Y-YES, THANKS...I...
IT'S A STRANGE, SUSPENDED INSTANT....THAT FADES TO NORMALCY...
...AS THE INEXPLICABLE, UNEASY FEELING VANISHES!
I WAS LOOKING FOR A POETRY BOOK...
SHOP

MEANWHILE...
SO AFTER A MOMENT OF CONFUSION, HE ACTED AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED?
UH-HUH!
THAT'S CRAZY! I'M SPEECHLESS!
JUST LIKE I WAS WHEN I STEPPED INTO THE BOOKSHOP!
I WAS LOOKING FOR SOME INFO FOR THE ARTICLE ON URBAN LEGENDS THAT THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE NEW MAGAZINE ASSIGNED TO ME...
...AND THE LAST PERSON IN THE WORLD I EXPECTED TO SEE WAS...CEDRIC!
BLINK
HEE-HEE! MAYBE BECAUSE HE'S NOT FROM THIS WORLD!
UM... MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE LOOKS SO...SO...
SO... SPECIAL?
WELL, IN A WAY...MAYBE BECAUSE WE BOTH COME FROM FAR AWAY AND...
HEY, NO NEED TO JUSTIFY YOURSELF!


YOU WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TO BE *TAKEN IN* BY LORD CEDRIC'S *CHARM*...*
*AS SEEN IN W.I.T.C.H. VOLUME 1
UNFORTUNATELY, HIS *HANDSOME FACE* WAS ONLY HIDING HIS REAL *UGLY MUG*!
YOU THINK HE RECOGNIZED YOU?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT JUDGING FROM THAT *ICY* MOMENT WHEN OUR EYES MET, I THINK SO!
AFTER ALL...THOUGH WE'VE NEVER INTERACTED DIRECTLY, I WOULD GUESS HE KNOWS WHO I AM...
...JUST AS I KNOW A LOT ABOUT HIM.
YEAH... THANKS TO OUR STORIES.

AND THE ORACLE! REMEMBER WHAT HE TOLD US ABOUT CEDRIC THE LAST TIME WE WERE IN KANDRAKAR?*
TRUE! BUT HE DIDN'T SAY WE'D FIND HIM IN THE BOOKSHOP!
TA-TA RATATATA-TA RA-TA PA
*DO YOU REMEMBER? IT HAPPENED IN CHAPTER 49!
MAYBE HE DIDN'T WANT TO RUIN THE SURPRISE!
TA TA PA
ANYWAY, I'M TELLING YOU, IF I HADN'T KNOWN, I'D NEVER HAVE GUESSED THAT BOOKSELLER WAS THE SERVANT OF PHOBOS!
EX-SERVANT!
DON'T FORGET, HE'S IN HEATHERFIELD FOR REHABILITATION! ACCORDING TO HIMERISH, HE'S GOTTA PROVE HE'S CHANGED.
WELL... HE'S ALREADY DOING IT, WILL!
HE WAS REALLY KIND AND HELPFUL. HE GAVE ME TIPS ABOUT SOME TEXTS THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL.
AND...?
WELL... AND WHAT?
WERE THEY USEFUL FOR YOUR ARTICLE?

LET'S JUST SAY THEY PIQUED MY CURIOSITY ABOUT HEATHERFIELD'S PAST!
?
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A JONATHAN LUDMOORE?
AS MUCH AS I KNOW ABOUT ROCKET SCIENCE...
WELL, HIS NAME KEEPS POPPING UP, ALWAYS IN ENIGMATIC AND MYSTERIOUS WAYS.
IT SEEMS HE WAS A FASCINATING PERSON ABOUT WHOM INCREDIBLE LEGENDS HAVE SPRUNG UP!
JUST LIKE CEDRIC!
143
OU CAN MAKE FUN OF ME, UT I ALREADY KNOW MORE ABOUT HEATHERFIELD THAN YOU DO!
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.
I THOUGHT THE ONLY HISTORICAL FIGURE IN TOWN WAS PRINCIPAL KNICKERBOCHER!

ANYWAY, I WANT TO FIND OUT MORE...
ABOUT MS. KNICKERBOCHER?
OOF! ABOUT LUDMOORE!
WELL, SORRY I CAN'T HELP YOU...
...BUT I'M SURE I KNOW SOMEONE WHO'D BE HONORED TO HELP YOU OUT!
HELLO, GIRLS!
GOOD AFTERNOON!
HI, PROF!
Collins teaches history, and he LOVES LEGENDS.
"I'M SURE HE CAN'T WAIT TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING HE KNOWS ON THE SUBJECT... SINCE WE DON'T TEND TO LISTEN WHEN HE GIVES ONE OF HIS BORING LECTURES."
...AND IT WAS ON THAT OCCASION THAT THE GENERAL GAVE HIS FAMOUS SPEECH...

IF YOU WANT, I CAN ARRANGE FOR YOU TO MEET HIM AND...
BEEP
BEEP
HUH? A TEXT.
IT'S MATT! HE'S ASKING IF I WANNA JOIN HIM IN THE PARK.
OH NO, IT'S SUPER-LATE, AND I STILL GOTTA STUDY PHYSICS FOR TOMORROW!
WHAT DO I DO?
I MAY NOT BE THE BEST PERSON TO GIVE THIS KIND OF ADVICE, BUT...WHAT DO YOU EARTHLINGS SAY?
WHEN LOVE CALLS...

PANT! HUFF!
"...YOU COME RUNNING!"
PANT...HUFF! CRIPES! MY VERY FIRST DANCE CLASS...
...AND I'M STARTING OUT GREAT, ARRIVING REALLY LATE!
PUFF!
PARK AVENUE
...TO THINK I STARTED GETTING READY EARLY, BUT THEN... HUFF!
DANCE ACADEMY
PANT! THE TENSION, CHOOSING WHAT TO WEAR, REPACKING THE BAG AT LEAST THREE TIMES...
HUFF!

HERE WE GO, GUYS! IF YOU'RE HERE TODAY, IT'S BECAUSE YOU PASSED A TOUGH AUDITION... SO FIRST OF ALL, CONGRATULATIONS!
MAN... MY HANDS ARE SHAKING...
YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF YOUR SUCCESS, AND IT'S GREAT TO SEE SUCH ENTHUSIASM. BUT I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER SOMETHING...
THIS ISN'T THE FINISH LINE, BUT A STARTING POINT. YOU SHOWED YOUR STRENGTH AND RESOLVE IN THE AUDITION.
...NOT TO MENTION MY KNEES! IF I GO IN NOW, I'LL END UP ON THE FLOOR!
I EXPECT YOU TO DO THE SAME FROM NOW ON, WITHOUT LOSING HEART, BECAUSE YOUR PATH WILL BE A TOUGH ONE!
YOU'LL HAVE CLASS WITH ME TWICE A WEEK. THE THIRD ONE WILL BE WITH EDNA AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS WHO'LL HOLD SEMINARS ABOUT DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF DANCING...
MAYBE I SHOULD WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE SPEECH SO I DON'T INTERRUPT... WHAT IF I DON'T GO IN AT ALL? I COULD CALL IN SICK...

YOU'LL NEED PERSEVERANCE AND COMMITMENT TO BE READY FOR THE EXAMS THROUGHOUT THE COURSE...
...AND TEAM SPIRIT AND ENTHUSIASM WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO COPE WITH THE CLASSES... UNTIL THE END-OF-THE-YEAR RECITAL!
FEEL FREE TO TALK TO ME OR EDNA ABOUT ANY PROBLEMS AND...
OKAY, OKAY, I'LL STOP NOW! A WARM WELCOME TO THE JENSEN ACADEMY, AND...I'M LEAVING YOU IN CAPABLE HANDS!
ENJOY YOUR CLASS.
BYE, KEVIN!

!!!
?
I WAS WONDERING WHERE YOU WERE...YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE ABSENT.
I...UM... WELL...
HURRY—EDNA DOESN'T LIKE LATECOMERS!
C'MON, OPEN THAT DOOR! AND TRY TO BE PUNCTUAL NEXT TIME.
S-SURE...
OH MAN!

SO, LET'S START WARMING UP A LITTLE...
Pssst! Hey!
?
Welcome!
How's your wrist?
LUKE! YOU GOT IN TOO!
IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU!

NOT TOO FAR AWAY, WE FIND SIMILAR EMOTIONS...
I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU, HAY LIN!
THANK YOU FOR COMING.
YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY? YOU SOUNDED STRANGE ON THE PHONE...
...AAAAH!
CAREFUL. WE'RE ALMOST THERE...
THANKS!

HERE WE ARE.
HE DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION...
...THAT'S A BAD SIGN, ISN'T IT?
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED LIGHTHOUSES!
?
MAYBE BECAUSE THEY'RE A BIT LIKE THE NORTH STAR.
THEY INDICATE THE ROUTE AND LIGHT UP THE DARKNESS. THEY SHOW THE WAY TO A PORT— TO SAFETY.
KINDA LIKE CERTAIN SPECIAL PEOPLE NOT EVERYONE'S LUCKY ENOUGH TO MEET!
!

YOU MIGHT NOT SEE THEM FOR A LONG TIME...
...BUT WHEN YOU DO, IT'S LIKE YOU SAW THEM JUST YESTERDAY.
PEOPLE WHO ARE LIKE COMFORTING HUGS!
HAY LIN, I...I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO TELL YOU, BUT...
...THAT'S HOW I FEEL WHEN I THINK ABOUT YOU...

OH, ERIC, WHAT YOU JUST SAID IS AMAZING, BUT...
...I KNOW YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING I NEVER WANTED TO HEAR.
I KNOW BECAUSE THE AIR ITSELF IS TELLING ME. MY SENSES HAVE NEVER BEEN THIS ALERT BEFORE.
THE WINDS OF CHANGE ARE BLOWING. THERE'S A CURRENT OF CHANGE...
...GOOD-BYE IS IN THE AIR!

I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YOU, HAY LIN. I NEVER WANTED THIS DAY TO COME, BUT SOMETIMES YOU'RE FORCED TO MAKE A CHOICE, AND...WELL...
...I'VE DECIDED TO GO WITH MY PARENTS. WE'RE MOVING TO OPEN HILL.*
*AS SEEN IN CHAPTER 49
SO FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I WAS LITTLE, WE'LL BE TOGETHER AGAIN... A REAL FAMILY!
IT WASN'T AN EASY CHOICE, BUT...
...I THINK IT'S THE RIGHT ONE.
I THINK SO TOO.

CHARLES AND LOUISE NEED YOU, AND YOU NEED THEM... THAT'S NORMAL! I WOULD'VE DONE THE SAME...
WOULD I? IT'S SO HARD TO CUT LOVE INTO SLICES...AND DECIDE WHO GETS THE BIGGEST HELPING.
HEY...I'M SURE IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD!
I MEAN, IT'S ONLY A FEW HUNDRED MILES TO HEATHERFIELD! WE CAN STILL SEE EACH OTHER SOMETIMES...
...AND WHEN WE WANT TO FEEL CLOSE, WE JUST GOTTA LOOK UP AT THE SKY...
...AND THINK THAT WE'RE WATCHING THE SAME STARS!
I KNOW... THAT WASN'T VERY CONVINCING, WAS IT?

I'M GONNA MISS YOU!
157
AND SO BLOW THE WINDS OF CHANGE...

Witch
Will
Irma
Taranee
Cornelia
Hay Lin

SOME DAYS ARE SO DARK, YOU HAVE TO PUT THE LIGHTS ON EARLY IN THE MORNING.
DAYS WHEN THE SKY IS GLOOMY AND THREATENING RAIN...AND YOU CAN ALMOST FEEL THE STORM BREWING INSIDE.
DARK DAYS THAT MAKE EVERYTHING SEEM INSIGNIFICANT.
DAYS THAT LEAVE YOU SPEECHLESS, FOR WHATEVER REASON.
TODAY IS ONE OF THOSE DAYS. A DAY WITHOUT ANSWERS.
TA
RA
TA

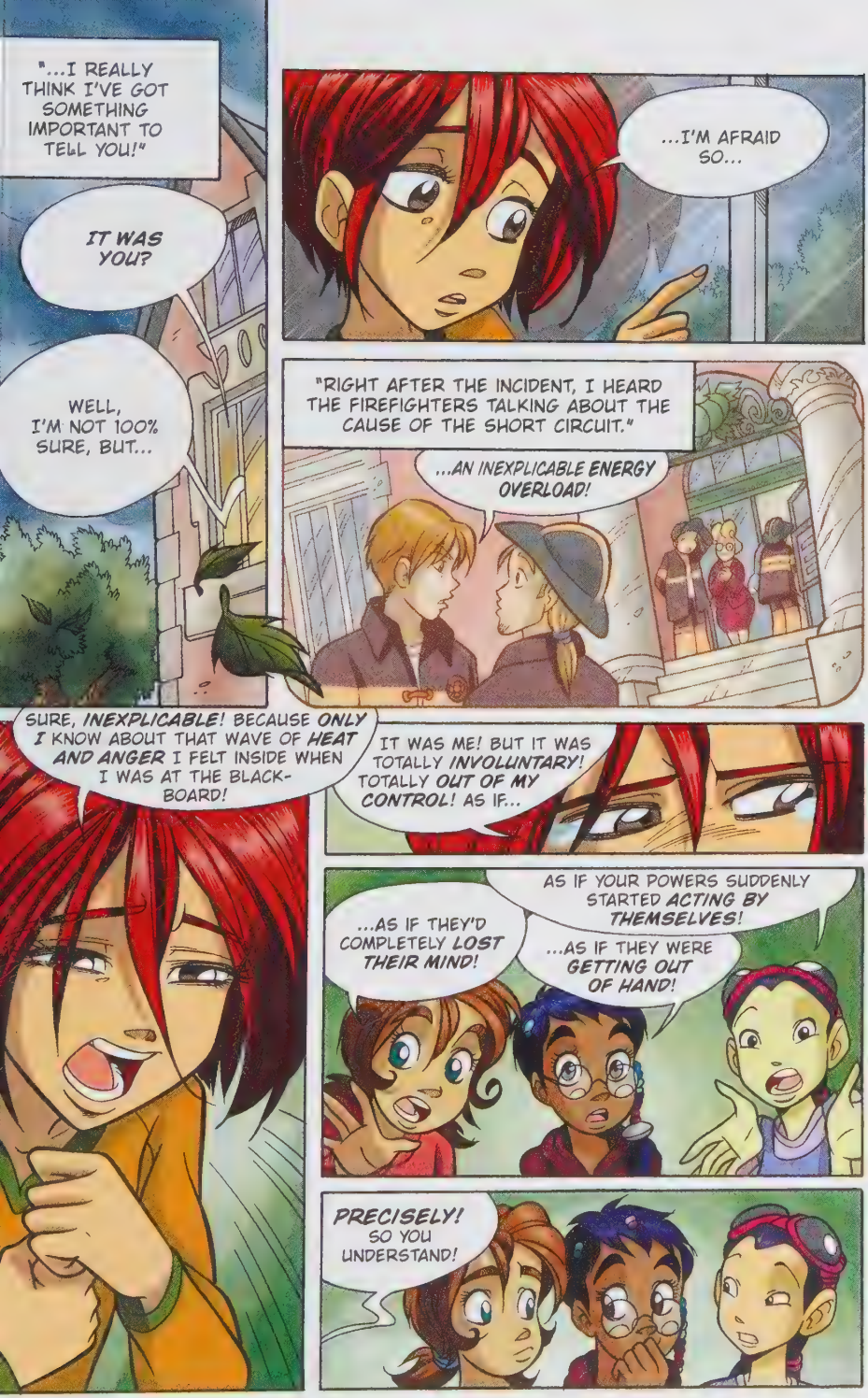
WILL DOESN'T KNOW THE ANSWER, AND FOR A MOMENT, SHE REGRETS HAVING CHOSEN MATT OVER HER PHYSICS TEXTBOOK THE DAY BEFORE.
MEANWHILE, HAY LIN HAS NO ANSWER FOR THE DEVASTATION SHE'S CARRIED IN HER HEART SINCE HER LAST MEETING WITH ERIC...
...AND IRMA HAS NO ANSWERS TO EASE HER FRIEND'S PAIN.
TOC TOC
C'MON, HAY-HAY... OPEN UP!
SHE MADE UP AN EXCUSE TO LEAVE CLASS AND JOIN HAY LIN TO CHEER HER UP...BUT NOW IT ALL SEEMS USELESS.
HOW ABOUT GETTING OUT FOR SOME FRESH AIR? I PROMISE— WHATEVER YOU SAY, I'LL BE QUIET AS A FISH!
160
NOTHING. SHE CAN ONLY THINK OF AWFUL JOKES.
GROAN!
MAYBE IT'S BETTER TO STICK WITH SILENCE.
A SILENCE LOADED WITH TENSION, WHERE EVERYTHING SEEMS BEYOND YOUR CONTROL.

I'M WAITING, MISS VANDOM!
ARE YOU GOING TO WRITE DOWN THAT EQUATION?
WILL VANDOM, I ASKED YOU A QUESTION!
CAN YOU ANSWER...
...OR WOULD YOU RATHER GO BACK TO YOUR SEAT WITH YET ANOTHER BAD MARK?
TOC

WILL HAS NO IDEA WHAT TO WRITE.
ALL SHE FEELS IS GROWING ANGER.
KREEE
AS MS. MITRIDGE CONTINUES HER CRITICISM, IT'S AS IF ALL THE ENERGY IN THE WORLD HAS GATHERED INSIDE OF WILL...
HUH?
...READY TO EXPLODE!
ANGER, FRUSTRATION, EXASPERATION.
THEN, NOTHING.

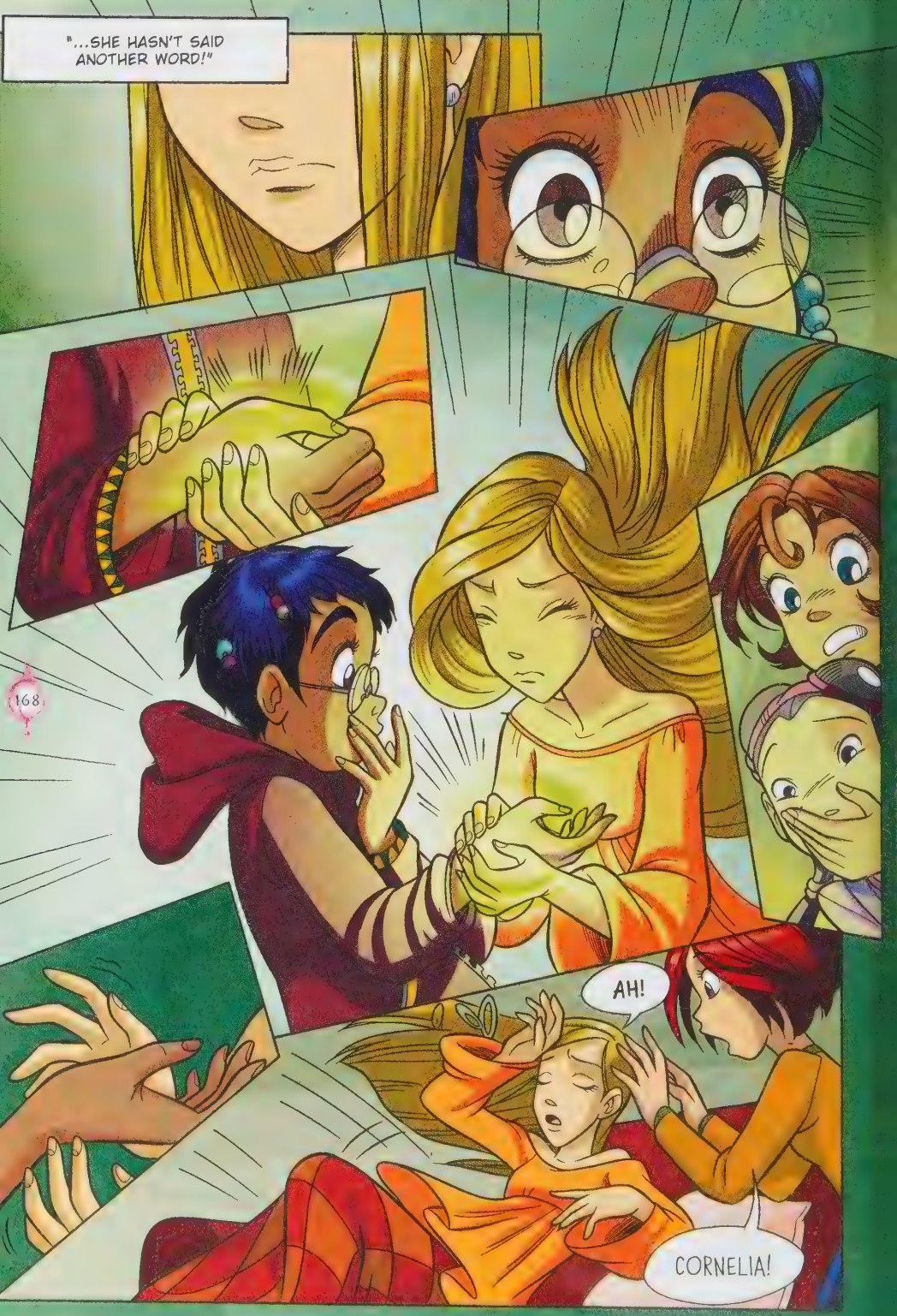
JUST A DULL THUD, FOLLOWED BY A BLACKOUT...
PONK
...AND THE SIREN OF THE FIRE ALARM!
SHHHH
IRMA! WAS THAT REALLY NECESSARY?
HEY, HANG ON! I SWEAR IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME...
GIRLS!
NEEEEEEEEEEEEE
QUICK—GET OUT! WE'RE EVACUATING THE BUILDING!
EEEEEEEEEEEE
WHAT HAPPENED?
FOR SOME REASON, THE ELECTRICAL PANEL SHORT-CIRCUITED, WHICH STARTED A SMALL FIRE.
NOTHING SERIOUS, BUT THE SCHOOL'S CLOSING FOR TODAY...

"... AND YOU'RE ALL GOING HOME!"
ALWAYS GOING OVER THE TOP, WILL! ALL THIS CHAOS JUST TO ESCAPE FROM MS. MITRIDGE!
HEY, WHY THE LONG FACE? I WAS JUST KIDDING!
AND IF IT REALLY WAS YOU, YOU HAVE MY ETERNAL GRATITUDE! I HAD A GEOGRAPHY TEST COMING UP...
...BUT AFTER YESTERDAY, THE ONLY PLACE I COULDA TALKED ABOUT WOULD BE HEATHER-FIELD BEACH!
OHO! YOU STARTED SURFING LESSONS?
WITH CRAZY-HAIR JAY?
YEAH...BUT IT WASN'T EXACTLY A SUCCESS...
WHY DON'T I TELL THE TRUTH? TELL THEM ABOUT THOSE STUPID VISIONS?
AND YOU, TARANEE? HOW WAS YOUR FIRST DAY AT THE JENSEN DANCE ACADEMY?
FANTASTIC! I CAN'T WAIT TO GO HOME AND PRACTICE THE NEW STEPS I LEARNED!
GUYS!
WHY DON'T WE USE THIS BONUS FREE TIME FOR A QUICK MEETING AT HEADQUARTERS?
EVEN IF ORUBE ISN'T HOME, I HAVE A COPY OF THE KEYS AND...


"...I REALLY THINK I'VE GOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU!"
IT WAS YOU?
WELL, I'M NOT 100% SURE, BUT...
...I'M AFRAID SO...
"RIGHT AFTER THE INCIDENT, I HEARD THE FIREFIGHTERS TALKING ABOUT THE CAUSE OF THE SHORT CIRCUIT."
...AN INEXPLICABLE ENERGY OVERLOAD!
SURE, INEXPLICABLE! BECAUSE ONLY I KNOW ABOUT THAT WAVE OF HEAT AND ANGER I FELT INSIDE WHEN I WAS AT THE BLACK-BOARD!
IT WAS ME! BUT IT WAS TOTALLY INVOLUNTARY! TOTALLY OUT OF MY CONTROL! AS IF...
AS IF YOUR POWERS SUDDENLY STARTED ACTING BY THEMSELVES!
...AS IF THEY'D COMPLETELY LOST THEIR MIND!
...AS IF THEY WERE GETTING OUT OF HAND!
PRECISELY! SO YOU UNDERSTAND!

WELL...THE TRUTH IS, SOMETHING SIMILAR HAPPENED TO ME TOO.
SAME!
WELCOME TO THE CLUB! I HAVE CREEPY VISIONS WHEN I LOOK INTO THE WATER. AND YOU?
I...CAN SENSE FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS IN THE AIR. AND I THINK I CAN FEEL WHETHER SOMEONE IS LYING OR TELLING THE TRUTH.
AND I HAVE PROOF. I COULD FEEL ERIC WAS HIDING SOMETHING...AND I WAS RIGHT.
I...AT THE DANCE AUDITION, I REALIZED I COULD HEAR THE THOUGHTS OF THE PEOPLE AROUND ME, AND THEN...
...THEN, I INADVERTENTLY RUBBED MY WRIST AND GOT THIS!

OUCH! LOOKS PAINFUL!
YES, BUT IT DIDN'T HELP MUCH...
IT STILL LOOKS SWOLLEN! DID YOU DISINFECT IT?
IT'S STILL BURNING!
LET ME TAKE A LOOK.
NO WORRIES. IT'S ONLY A SCRATCH.
O-OOOH! DR. HALE MADE HER DIAGNOSIS!
EVER THOUGHT OF GOING TO MED SCHOOL, CORNY? I CAN TOTALLY SEE YOU PARADING AROUND THE HOSPITAL IN GREEN SCRUBS!
IRMA!
HUH?
SHUSH!
What's she doing?
I dunno!
As soon as she touched Taranee's scratch, Cornelia shivered, then she closed her eyes and...


"...SHE HASN'T SAID ANOTHER WORD!"
AH!
CORNELIA!

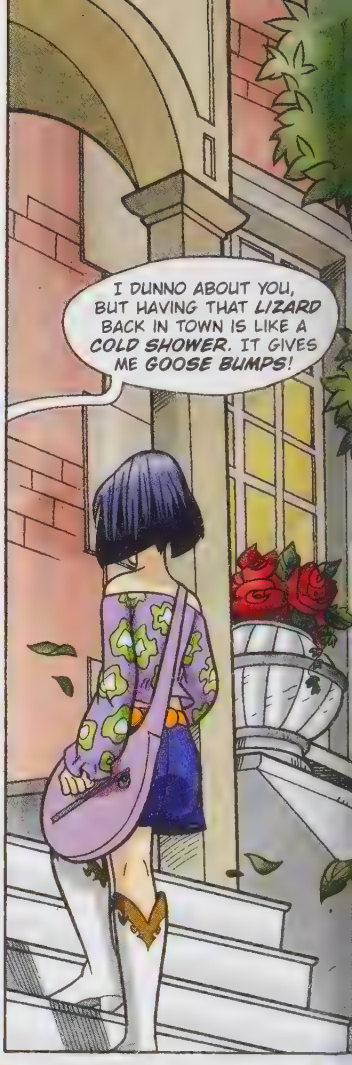
ARE YOU OKAY? WHAT HAPPENED?
UNBELIEVABLE!
IT'S BETTER! I DUNNO HOW...BUT SHE DID IT!
I FELT A WARMTH ON MY WRIST, THEN...THE BURNING STARTED FADING...
IT WAS THE WARMTH OF THE EARTH!
THE SAME WARMTH THAT'S BEEN ENABLING ME TO REVIVE DEAD PLANTS AND FLOWERS...
"...AND CREATE CRACKS IN THE GROUND AND CLOSE THEM BACK UP."
KWITTIN
I'VE OFTEN DONE STUFF LIKE THAT, BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD WORK ON PEOPLE TOO!
WHAT'D I TELL YA? YOU'D MAKE A GREAT DOCTOR!

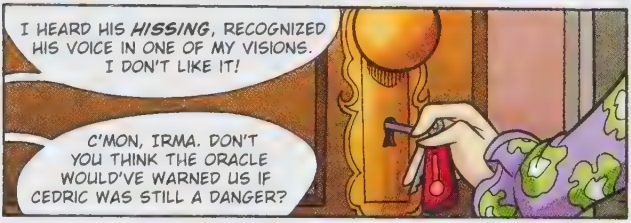
IT'S NOT FUNNY, GUYS! THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD GOING ON.
I BET THERE'S A HIDDEN MEANING SOMEWHERE.
THINK ABOUT IT. OUR POWERS FLARE UP IN UNUSUAL AND UNEXPECTED WAYS. WE DISCOVER WE CAN DO THINGS THAT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE...
...AND WHEN DOES THIS HAPPEN?
YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT THE LAST TIME THE ORACLE CALLED US AND THAT STUFF WITH THE TRANSFORMING CARDS?*
TRANSMUTING, IRMA.
*AS SEEN IN CHAPTER 50
THE CARDS GIVE THE ELEMENTS A VOICE. THEY RARELY SPEAK, BUT WHEN THEY DO, IT MEANS BIG CHANGES ARE COMING.
PRECISELY. AND REMEMBER WHAT THE ORACLE SAID?
HMPH! BALDY'S ALWAYS SO DRAMATIC!
"YOU MIGHT HAVE TO FACE UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES! WILL YOU BE ABLE TO FACE THE CHANGES?"
WHAT IF THE ELEMENTS ARE...TESTING US?

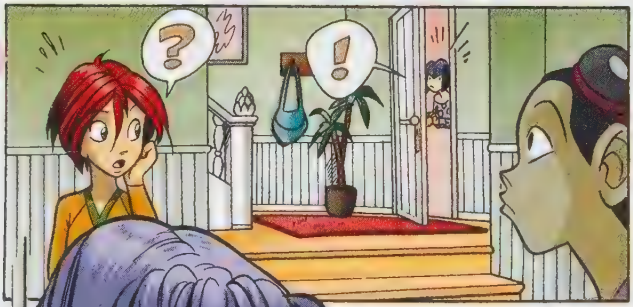
I MEAN, THE ORACLE SAID THAT, IN ORDER TO GROW, WE MUST CONSTANTLY QUESTION OURSELVES.
THAT'S WHAT HE SHOULD DO! BESIDES, IF HE WAS A COUPLE OF INCHES TALLER...
IRMA, STOP IT! WE'RE TRYING TO HAVE A SERIOUS DISCUSSION!
WHAT'S TO DISCUSS? WE'RE STILL UP TO OUR NECKS IN PROBLEMS EVEN THOUGH WE JUST FINISHED OUR MOST DIFFICULT MISSION YET!
AND AS USUAL, NOBODY CAN GIVE US A CLEAR ANSWER ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT MESSAGE THOSE STUPID CARDS WANTED TO SEND...
YE OLDE
...OR WHY OUR POWERS ARE COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL!
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WHAT THE HECK THAT SLIMY WORM IS DOING AT THE BOOKSHOP!

CEDRIC!
YEAH! I TOTALLY FORGOT.
PAT
ORUBE WAS THE FIRST TO MEET HIM.

YES, BUT SHE SAID HE SEEMED HARMLESS...
YEAH, RIGHT...


I DUNNO ABOUT YOU, BUT HAVING THAT LIZARD BACK IN TOWN IS LIKE A COLD SHOWER. IT GIVES ME GOOSE BUMPS!


I HEARD HIS HISSING, RECOGNIZED HIS VOICE IN ONE OF MY VISIONS. I DON'T LIKE IT!
C'MON, IRMA. DON'T YOU THINK THE ORACLE WOULD'VE WARNED US IF CEDRIC WAS STILL A DANGER?


?
!

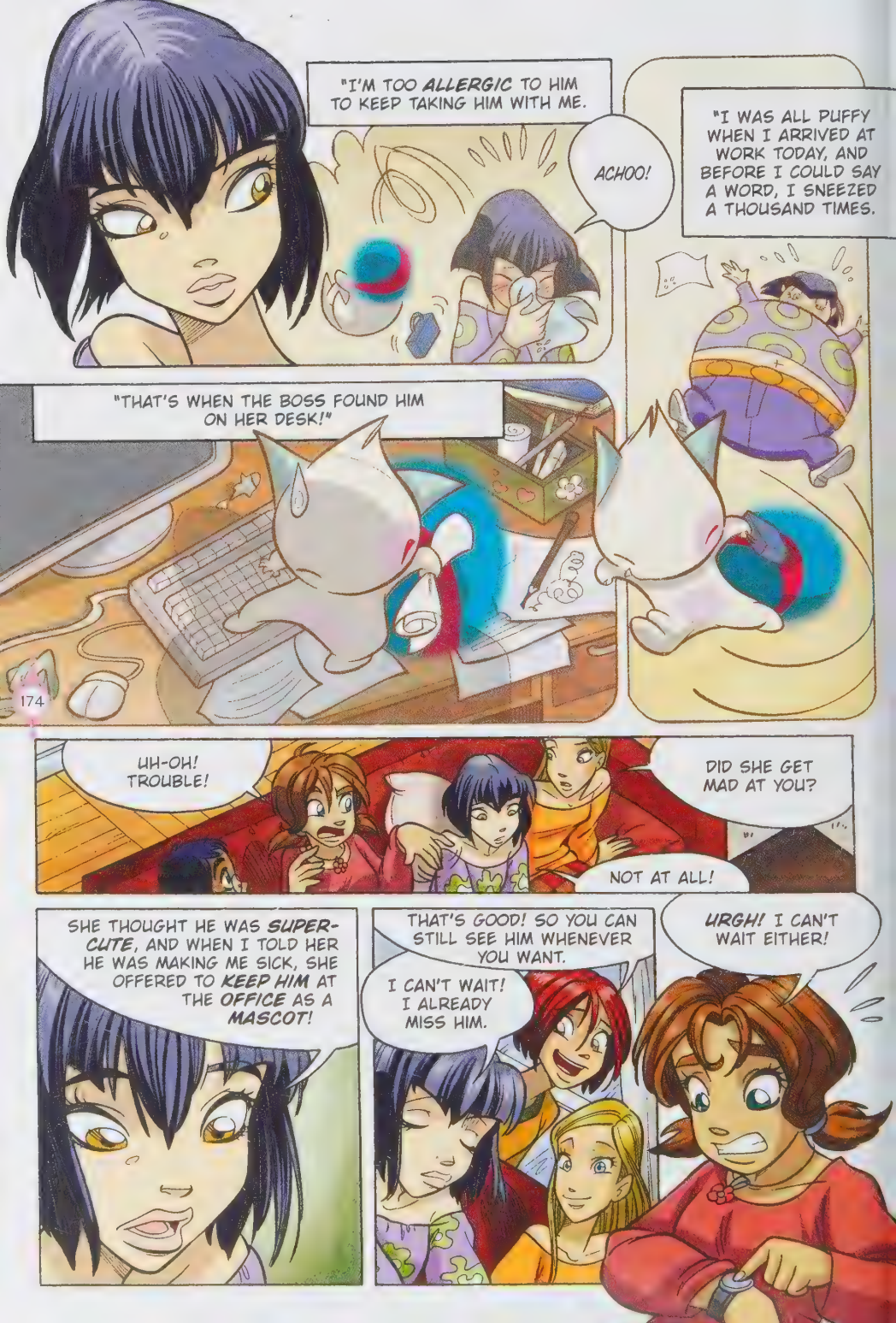
WHOOPS! OFFICE MEETING?
HI, ORUBE! SORRY FOR INVADING YOUR HOUSE, BUT...
NO PROBLEM. I HOPE I DIDN'T INTERRUPT ANYTHING IMPORTANT!

WE WERE...UM... DRAWING TO A CONCLUSION.
ARE YOU OKAY? YOU LOOK A LITTLE BEAT...
I'M JUST A BIT TIRED.

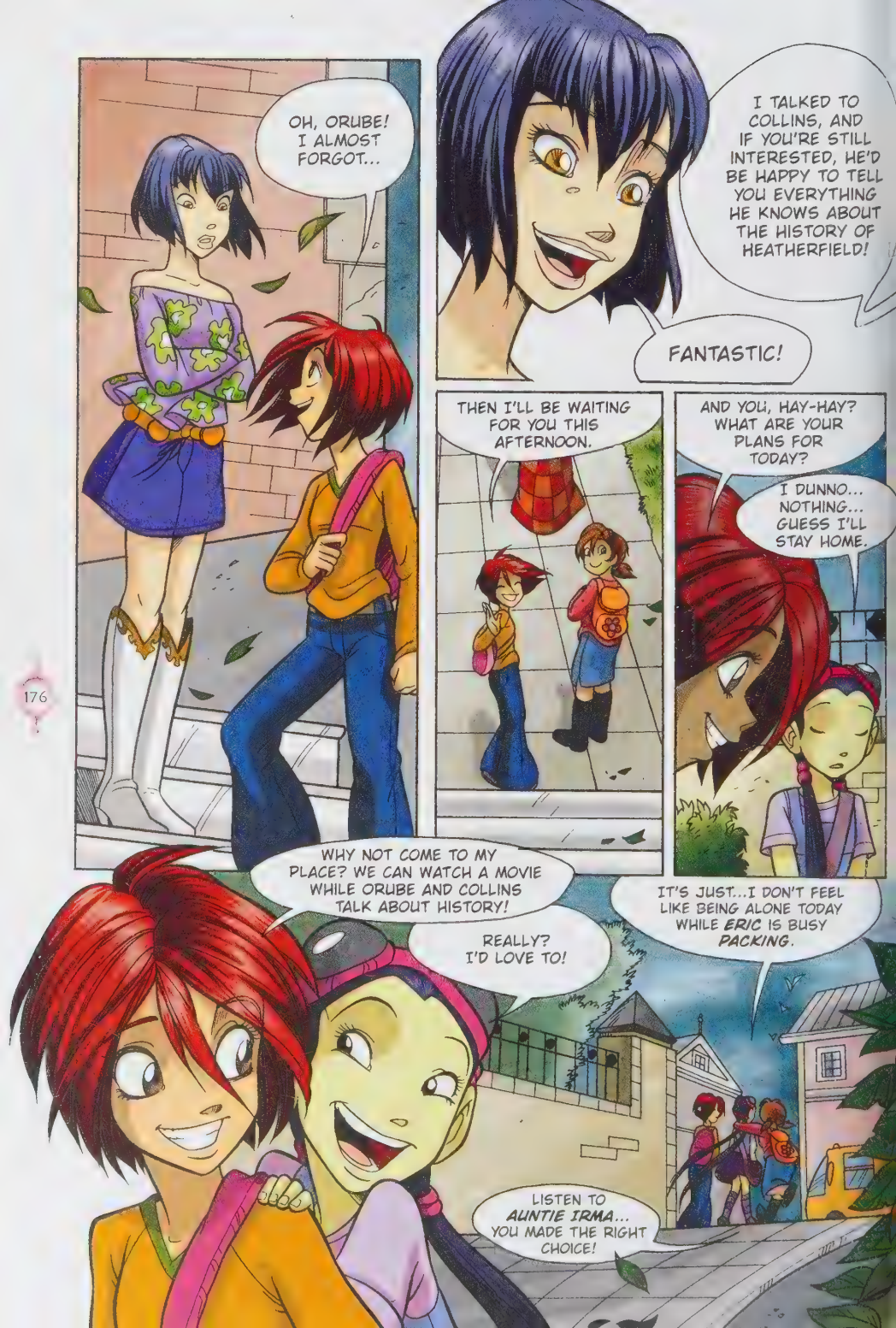
EVERY TIME I COME BACK FROM AN EDITORIAL MEETING I FEEL...DRAINED! THEY KEEP ASKING FOR NEW IDEAS!
RELAX! THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU HAVE TO START USING YOUR HEAD!

.....
HEY, I WAS KIDDING!

ORUBE, WHAT'S WRONG?
YEAH, TELL DR. HALE, HEALER OF BODY AND SOUL!
I HAD TO ABANDON WE...
THE THING IS...

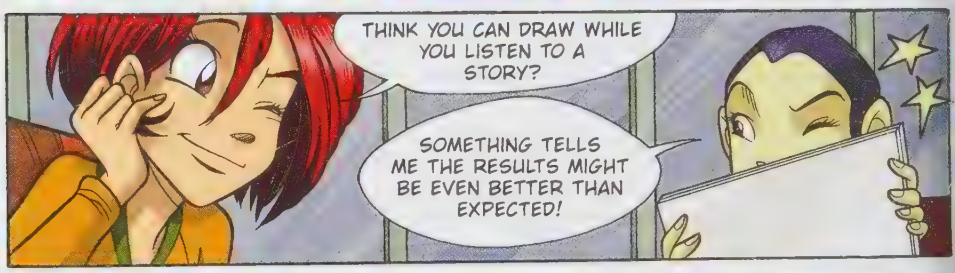

"I'M TOO ALLERGIC TO HIM TO KEEP TAKING HIM WITH ME.
ACHOO!
"I WAS ALL PUFFY WHEN I ARRIVED AT WORK TODAY, AND BEFORE I COULD SAY A WORD, I SNEEZED A THOUSAND TIMES.
"THAT'S WHEN THE BOSS FOUND HIM ON HER DESK!"
174
UH-OH! TROUBLE!
DID SHE GET MAD AT YOU?
NOT AT ALL!
SHE THOUGHT HE WAS SUPER-CUTE, AND WHEN I TOLD HER HE WAS MAKING ME SICK, SHE OFFERED TO KEEP HIM AT THE OFFICE AS A MASCOT!
THAT'S GOOD! SO YOU CAN STILL SEE HIM WHENEVER YOU WANT.
I CAN'T WAIT! I ALREADY MISS HIM.
URGH! I CAN'T WAIT EITHER!

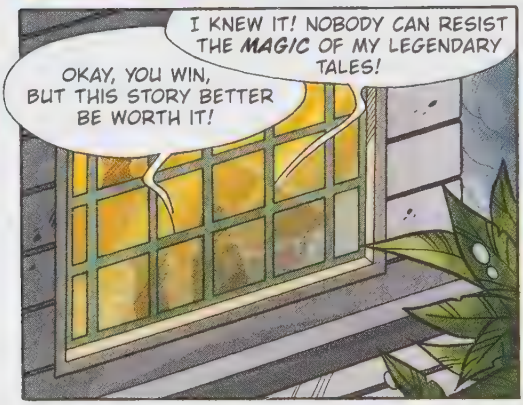
IF I DON'T RUN HOME, I'LL BE LATE, AND DAD'S GONNA GIVE ME THE THIRD DEGREE!
IT'S HARD BEING A COP'S DAUGHTER, HUH?
YOU BET! BUT AT LEAST I'LL GET RECREATION TIME THIS AFTERNOON—SURFING SCHOOL!
I'M GONNA SEE NIGEL! DID I TELL YOU HE CAME TO PICK ME UP AFTER MY FIRST DANCE LESSON?
I HAD THE FEELING HE WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR FREAKING OUT A FEW DAYS AGO.*
TARA...UM...STILL HAVE THAT GEOGRAPHY TEXTBOOK WITH ALL THE CAPITALS? I NEED TO CHECK SOMETHING...
MAYBE I COULD COME TO YOUR PLACE AND GET IT?
YES...I THINK I STILL HAVE IT, BUT I'M NOT SURE WHERE...
...
*AS SEEN IN CHAPTER 49
NO WORRIES! TODAY DAD AND PETER ARE HOME, SO MOM IS GOING ALL-OUT IN THE KITCHEN!
STAY FOR LUNCH TO GIVE ME TIME TO LOOK FOR IT!
I D-DON'T WANT TO IMPOSE...
THEN DEAL!
BLINK


OH, ORUBE! I ALMOST FORGOT...
I TALKED TO COLLINS, AND IF YOU'RE STILL INTERESTED, HE'D BE HAPPY TO TELL YOU EVERYTHING HE KNOWS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF HEATHERFIELD!
FANTASTIC!
THEN I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU THIS AFTERNOON.
AND YOU, HAY-HAY? WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR TODAY?
I DUNNO... NOTHING... GUESS I'LL STAY HOME.
WHY NOT COME TO MY PLACE? WE CAN WATCH A MOVIE WHILE ORUBE AND COLLINS TALK ABOUT HISTORY!
REALLY? I'D LOVE TO!
IT'S JUST...I DON'T FEEL LIKE BEING ALONE TODAY WHILE ERIC IS BUSY PACKING.
LISTEN TO AUNTIE IRMA... YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE!

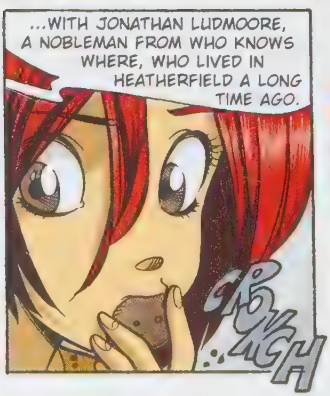
'S MOM'S COOKIES WOULD AKE EVEN A WEEPING WILLOW SMILE!"
HERE YOU GO! EXACTLY WHAT WE NEED TO CHEER US UP ON SUCH A GRAY DAY.
THE SWEETEST MAGIC!
MMM...THANKS, MOM!
NOW I'LL LEAVE YOU TO YOUR EXTRACURRICULAR HISTORY LESSON!
177
YOU MEAN LEAVE THEM. HAY LIN AND I HAVE OTHER PLANS!
YEAH! I WAS THINKING OF DRAWING SOMETHING FOR ERIC...
...and between us, we're sick of lessons!
OKAY. N ONLY REBECCA WILL VE THE PRIVILEGE OF ARING THE RIVETING ALE OF JONATHAN LUDMOORE...
...AND HIS MYSTERIOUS BOOK OF ELEMENTS!
BOOK OF ELEMENTS?
THAT'S RIGHT! AN ANTIQUE TEXT THAT BECAME MAGICAL AS LUDMOORE WROTE DOWN HIS DISCOVERIES!

OH, BUT...I DON'T WANNA KEEP YOU. YOU'RE BUSY!
UM...NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I'M SUDDENLY FREE!
PFFFT!

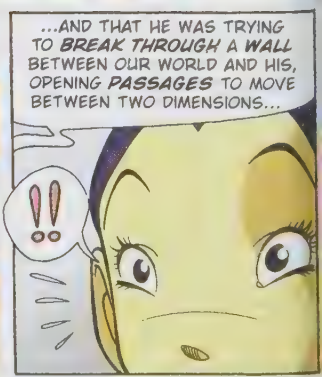

THINK YOU CAN DRAW WHILE YOU LISTEN TO A STORY?
SOMETHING TELLS ME THE RESULTS MIGHT BE EVEN BETTER THAN EXPECTED!


I KNEW IT! NOBODY CAN RESIST THE MAGIC OF MY LEGENDARY TALES!
OKAY, YOU WIN, BUT THIS STORY BETTER BE WORTH IT!

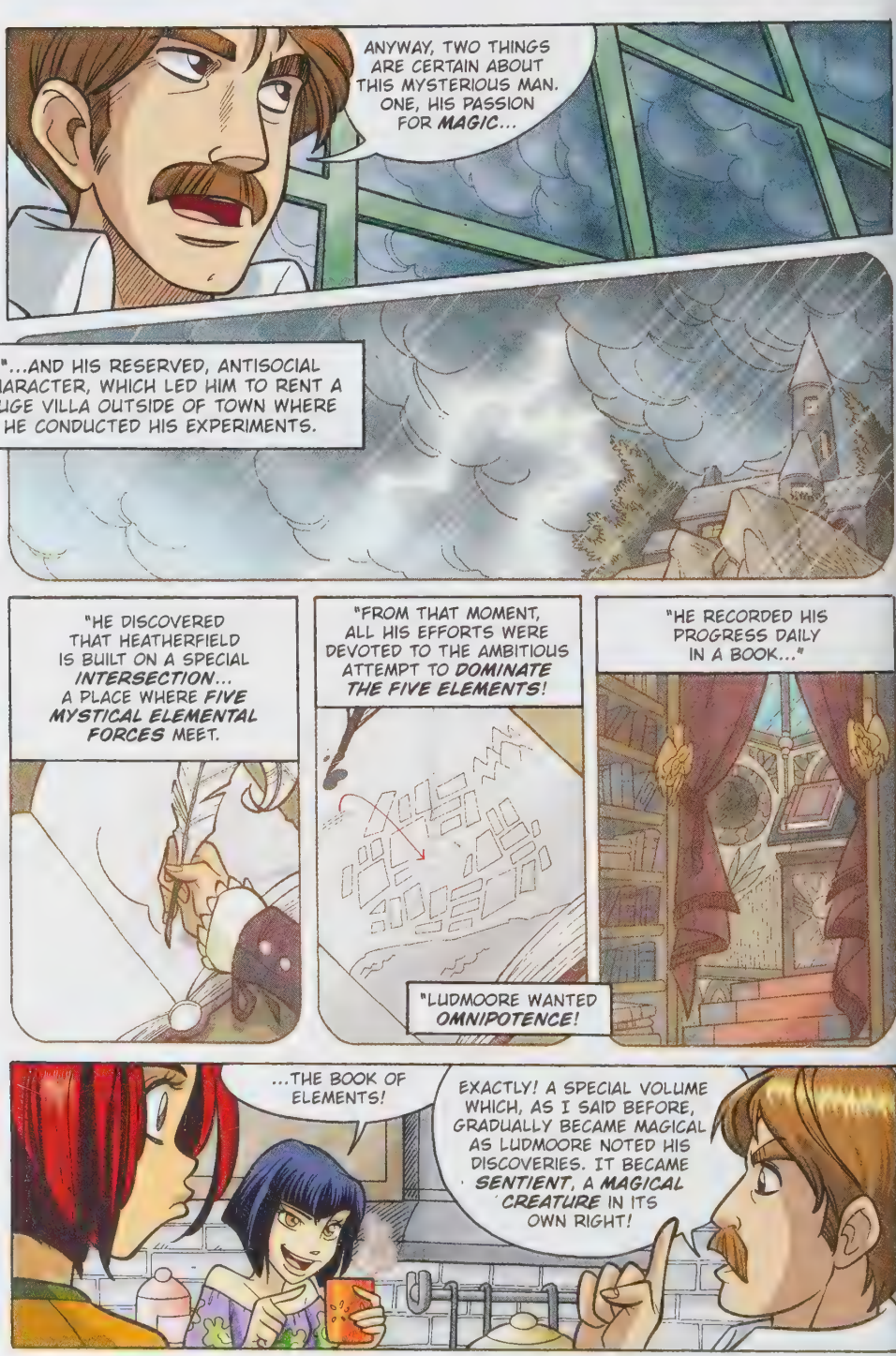
YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT THE BOOK OF ELEMENTS...
HANG ON! LET ME START AGAIN...

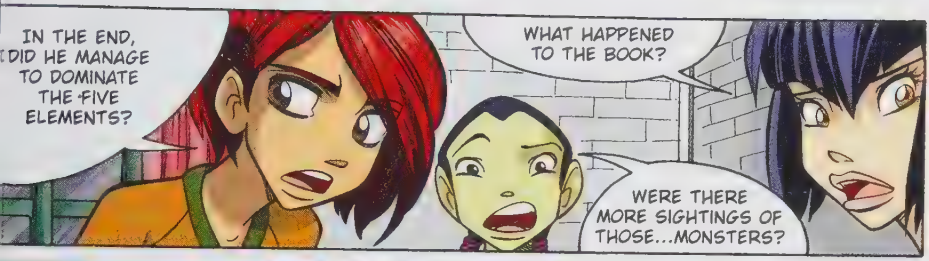

...WITH JONATHAN LUDMOORE, A NOBLEMAN FROM WHO KNOWS WHERE, WHO LIVED IN HEATHERFIELD A LONG TIME AGO.
CRUNCH

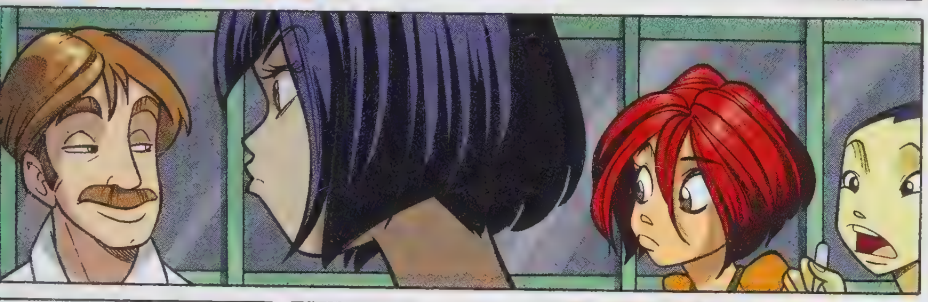
A LOT OF THINGS WERE SAID ABOUT HIM. SOME EVEN THOUGHT HE CAME FROM ANOTHER PLANET...


...AND THAT HE WAS TRYING TO BREAK THROUGH A WALL BETWEEN OUR WORLD AND HIS, OPENING PASSAGES TO MOVE BETWEEN TWO DIMENSIONS...
!!

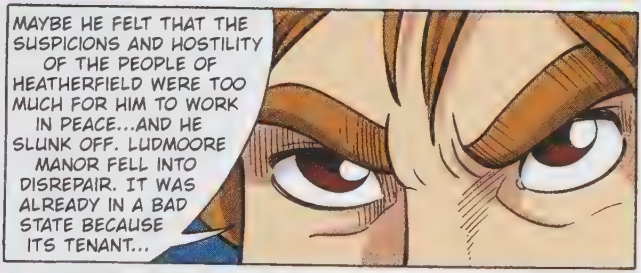
TOK
DID YOU SAY "P-PASSAGES"?
DID HE S-SAY "WALL"?
ARE YOU THINKING WHAT I'M THINKING?
COINCIDENCE?
EVEN AFTER HE DISAPPEARED, THERE WERE SEVERAL SIGHTINGS OF STRANGE CREATURES...
...MONSTERS SAID TO HAVE COME FROM THE PASSAGES LUDMOORE OPENED IN THE MAGICAL WALL!
THE PEOPLE OF MERIDIAN...
...TRYING TO ESCAPE THE TYRANNY OF PHOBOS!
JUST FANTASIES OBVIOUSLY.
OBVIOUSLY!


ANYWAY, TWO THINGS ARE CERTAIN ABOUT THIS MYSTERIOUS MAN. ONE, HIS PASSION FOR MAGIC...
"...AND HIS RESERVED, ANTISOCIAL CHARACTER, WHICH LED HIM TO RENT A HUGE VILLA OUTSIDE OF TOWN WHERE HE CONDUCTED HIS EXPERIMENTS.
"HE DISCOVERED THAT HEATHERFIELD IS BUILT ON A SPECIAL INTERSECTION... A PLACE WHERE FIVE MYSTICAL ELEMENTAL FORCES MEET.
"FROM THAT MOMENT, ALL HIS EFFORTS WERE DEVOTED TO THE AMBITIOUS ATTEMPT TO DOMINATE THE FIVE ELEMENTS!
"HE RECORDED HIS PROGRESS DAILY IN A BOOK..."
"LUDMOORE WANTED OMNIPOTENCE!
...THE BOOK OF ELEMENTS!
EXACTLY! A SPECIAL VOLUME WHICH, AS I SAID BEFORE, GRADUALLY BECAME MAGICAL AS LUDMOORE NOTED HIS DISCOVERIES. IT BECAME SENTIENT, A MAGICAL CREATURE IN ITS OWN RIGHT!

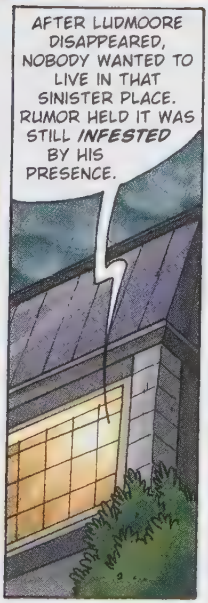

IN THE END, DID HE MANAGE TO DOMINATE THE FIVE ELEMENTS?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BOOK?
WERE THERE MORE SIGHTINGS OF THOSE...MONSTERS?

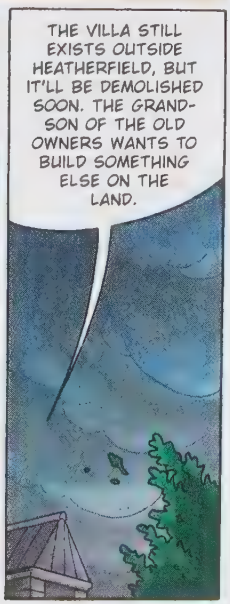


COMPLETELY OUT OF THE BLUE, LUDMOORE DISAPPEARED. NOBODY EVER SAW HIM AGAIN.

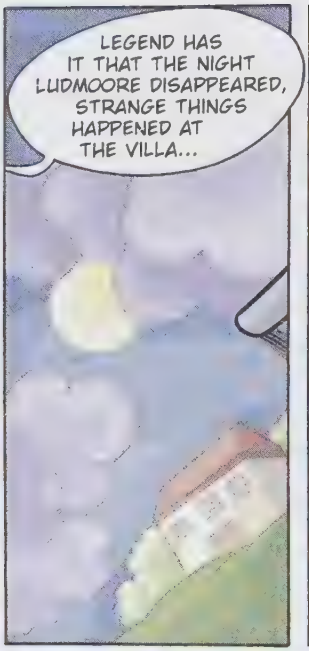

MAYBE HE FELT THAT THE SUSPICIONS AND HOSTILITY OF THE PEOPLE OF HEATHERFIELD WERE TOO MUCH FOR HIM TO WORK IN PEACE...AND HE SLUNK OFF. LUDMOORE MANOR FELL INTO DISREPAIR. IT WAS ALREADY IN A BAD STATE BECAUSE ITS TENANT...

...NEVER ALLOWED STRANGERS INTO THE HOUSE, INCLUDING SERVANTS WHO COULD'VE TAKEN CARE OF SUCH A HUGE BUILDING.


AFTER LUDMOORE DISAPPEARED, NOBODY WANTED TO LIVE IN THAT SINISTER PLACE. RUMOR HELD IT WAS STILL *INFESTED* BY HIS PRESENCE.

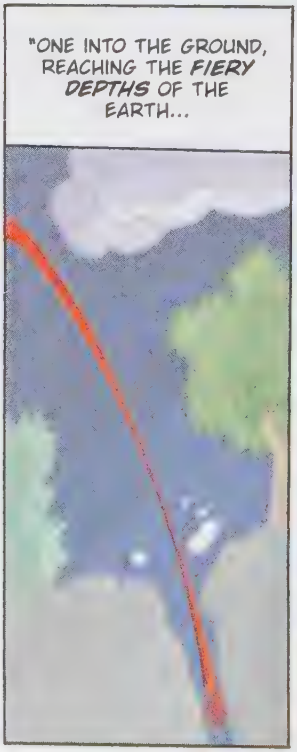

THE VILLA STILL EXISTS OUTSIDE HEATHERFIELD, BUT IT'LL BE DEMOLISHED SOON. THE GRAND-SON OF THE OLD OWNERS WANTS TO BUILD SOMETHING ELSE ON THE LAND.

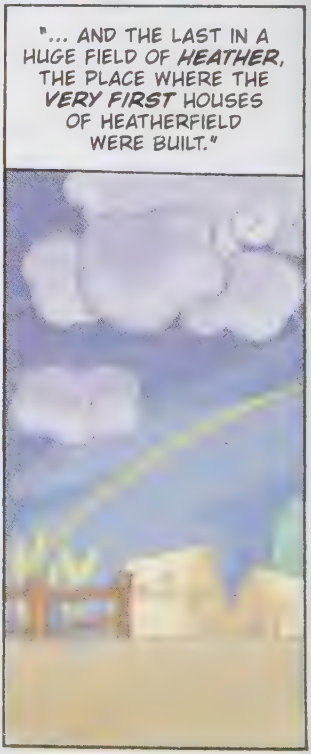
THAT'S IT? I WAS EXPECTING A TWIST IN THE TALE!
ALWAYS IMPATIENT, WILL...HERE'S THE COOLEST PART...


LEGEND HAS IT THAT THE NIGHT LUDMOORE DISAPPEARED, STRANGE THINGS HAPPENED AT THE VILLA...

"UNUSUAL RAYS OF LIGHT, LIKE FIREWORKS OF FIVE DIFFERENT COLORS, SHOT UP FROM THE HOUSE AND FELL LIKE METEORS AT FIVE DIFFERENT POINTS OF THE CITY.

"ONE IN THE SEA, ONE ON THE NEARBY MOUNTAIN, ONE IN THE SKY!


"ONE INTO THE GROUND, REACHING THE FIERY DEPTHS OF THE EARTH...


"... AND THE LAST IN A HUGE FIELD OF HEATHER, THE PLACE WHERE THE VERY FIRST HOUSES OF HEATHERFIELD WERE BUILT."

AHA! SO THAT'S WHY THE CITY IS CALLED HEATHERFIELD!
BUT...WHAT DID THE STREAKS OF LIGHT MEAN?
IT'S SAID THEY CARRIED, IN THE FORM OF COLORFUL GEMS, THE POSITIVE ESSENCE OF THE FIVE ELEMENTS...THE PART LUDMOORE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO ENSNARE.
POSITIVE ESSENCE?
THAT MEANS EVERY ELEMENT IS MADE UP OF...A GOOD HALF AND A BAD HALF?
SO IT SEEMS!
THEN IT'S AS IF THE ELEMENTS REFUSED TO LET HIM ASSIMILATE THEM!
THAT'S WHY HE RAN OFF...HE FAILED!
"THOSE WHO VISITED THE HOUSE IN THE FOLLOWING DAYS FOUND NO TRACE OF LUDMOORE BUT FOUND THE FAMOUS BOOK SEALED WITH A CLEVER MECHANISM.
M-MAY I? MR. L-LUDMOORE?
"RUMORS SPREAD THAT THE VOLUME HELD THE SECRET OF THE FIVE ELEMENTS!"

"ONLY BY RECOVERING THE GEMS THAT CONTAINED THE POSITIVE ESSENCE AND PLACING THEM CORRECTLY IN THE SLOTS ON THE COVER WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO OPEN THE BOOK..."
...THEREBY GAINING ACCESS TO LUDMOORE'S DISCOVERIES.
NOBODY EVER MANAGED?
TEMPTED, HAY LIN?
I W-WAS JUST ASKING...
ACTUALLY, NO ONE EVER TRIED. DON'T FORGET, IT'S JUST A LEGEND!

UM...APART FROM LUDMOORE...YOU MENTIONED THE FIVE ELEMENTS?
YES... BUT, YOU KNOW... JUST LEGENDS. I WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT THE ELEMENTS REPRESENT...
I THINK I DO...
ME TOO...I THINK IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH US!
SO, MR. COLLINS, IF THIS STORY WERE TRUE, IT WOULD PROVE THAT OURS IS, IN A WAY, A MAGICAL CITY!
AND THAT MAYBE THE PRESENCE OF W.I.T.C.H. IN HEATHERFIELD IS NO ACCIDENT!
WELL, WHAT DO THEY SAY? EVERY LEGEND HAS SOME TRUTH TO IT!
ANYWAY, I'D RATHER BELIEVE IN ANOTHER KIND OF MAGIC!
SO DID MY WIZARD BEWITCH HIS AUDIENCE?
UM... I THINK IT'S YOUR COOKIES THAT ARE BEWITCHING!

KRATZ
KABOOM

YE
SKREEK
Bookshop

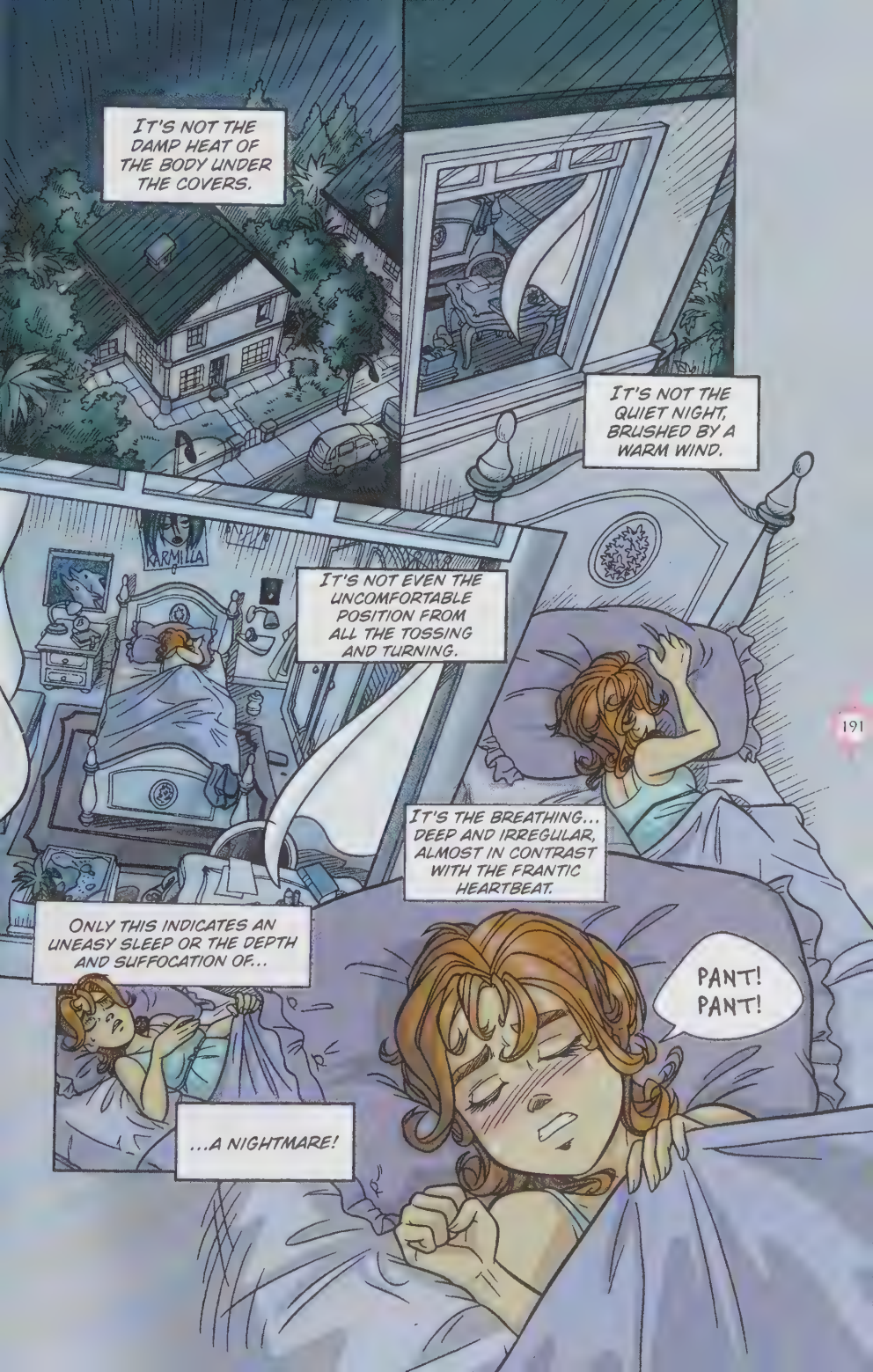
DLN
DLON
?
THE BOOKSHOP IS CLOSED!
I HAVE AN URGENT DELIVERY FROM PERTHWEST FOR MR...
!!
THAT'S ME!

FINALLY! I HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANYTHING IN A WHILE. I HOPE THIS TIME IT'S SOMETHING INTERESTING!
SBAM
HMM...NOT BAD...THESE BOOKS LOOK ANTIQUE. I WONDER WHERE THEY'RE FROM...
HUH?
Dear colleague,
I think a supply of
But we have to hurry.
is about to be
I've found precious volume
The house demolished!
"I SUGGEST YOU TAKE A LOOK BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...THE PLACE IS NEAR HEATHERFIELD ANYWAY.
"THEY CALL IT LUDMOORE MANOR. IT'S ON A CLIFF JUST OUTSIDE TOWN!"
CLOSE
END OF CHAPTER 51

52

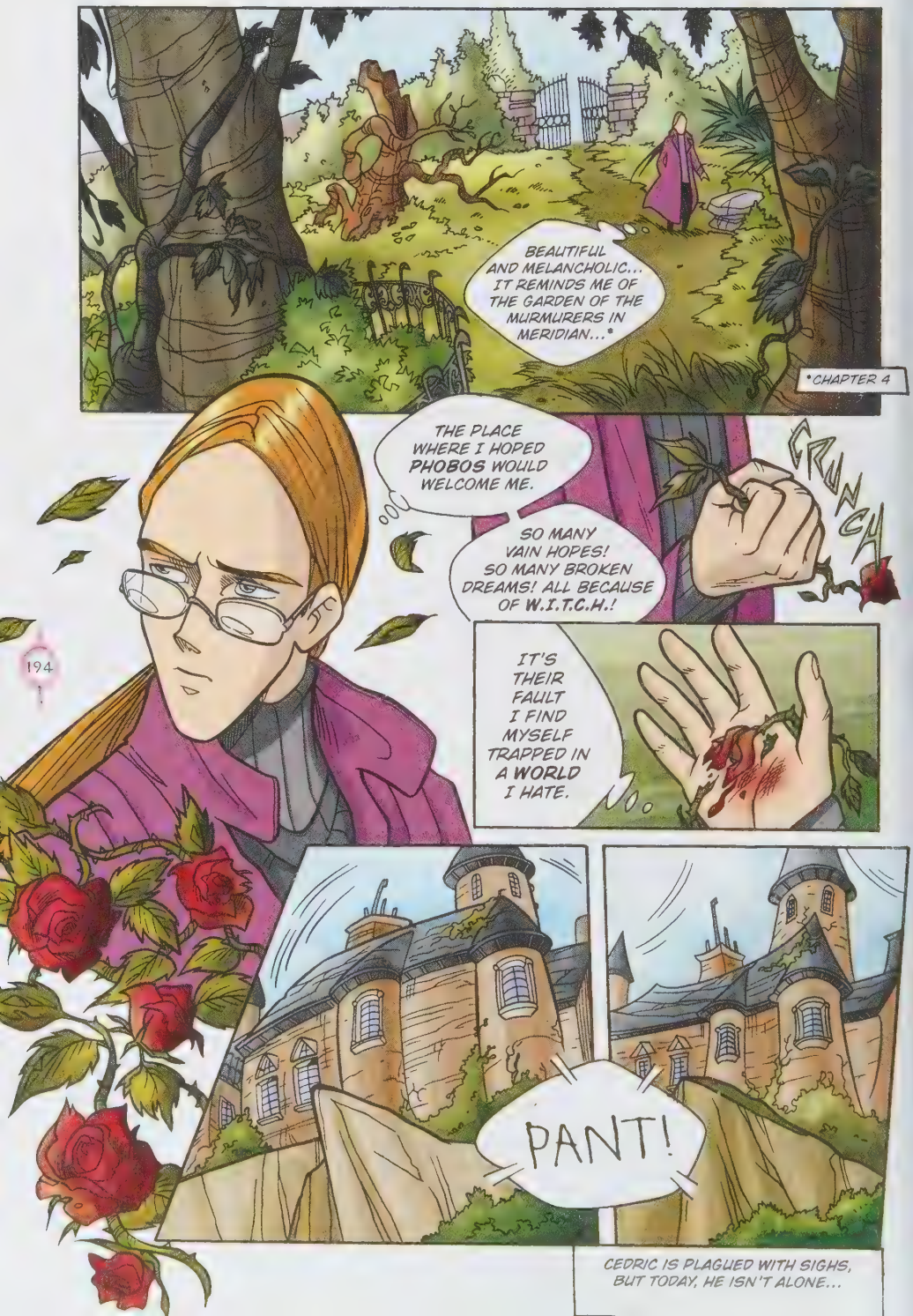
The Book's Eye

"Beautiful and melancholic. It reminds me of the garden of the Murmurers in Meridian..."


IT'S NOT THE DAMP HEAT OF THE BODY UNDER THE COVERS.
IT'S NOT THE QUIET NIGHT, BRUSHED BY A WARM WIND.
KARMILLA
IT'S NOT EVEN THE UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION FROM ALL THE TOSSING AND TURNING.
IT'S THE BREATHING... DEEP AND IRREGULAR, ALMOST IN CONTRAST WITH THE FRANTIC HEARTBEAT.
ONLY THIS INDICATES AN UNEASY SLEEP OR THE DEPTH AND SUFFOCATION OF...
PANT! PANT!
...A NIGHTMARE!

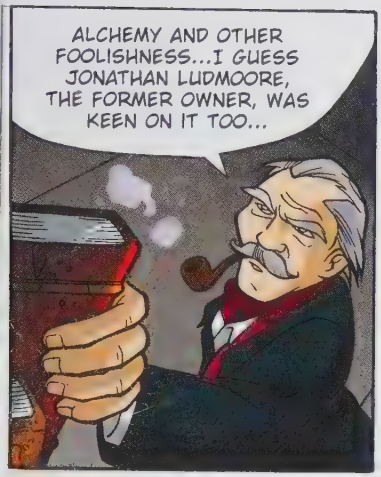
PANT!
NGH... SORRY, I'VE BEEN HAVING TROUBLE SLEEPING LATELY...
WAS THAT YOU JUST NOW?
DOING WHAT?
192
BREATHING IN MY EAR!
SKREEEK
I-I'M STOPPIN' HERE. THAT'S FIFTEEN TWENTY!
?
TA

NOT THAT I'M NOT BRAVE ENOUGH, MIND YOU...
...BUT A BUDDY WRECKED HIS CAB'S SUSPENSION ON THIS ROAD.
I SEE. KEEP THE CHANGE.
LUDMOORE MANOR...
WHY IS THE WHOLE OF HEATHERFIELD AFRAID OF YOU? WHERE ARE YOUR MONSTERS AND GHOSTS?
MAYBE HIDING AMONG THE WILD ROSES OF THIS ABANDONED PARK?

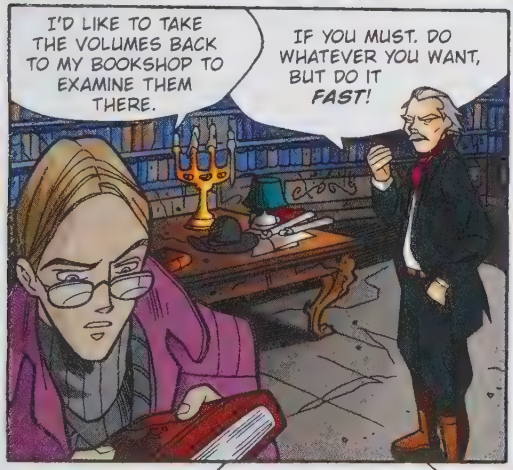

BEAUTIFUL AND MELANCHOLIC... IT REMINDS ME OF THE GARDEN OF THE MURMURERS IN MERIDIAN...*
*CHAPTER 4
THE PLACE WHERE I HOPED PHOBOS WOULD WELCOME ME.
SO MANY VAIN HOPES! SO MANY BROKEN DREAMS! ALL BECAUSE OF W.I.T.C.H.!
CRUNCH
IT'S THEIR FAULT I FIND MYSELF TRAPPED IN A WORLD I HATE.
PANT!
CEDRIC IS PLAGUED WITH SIGHS, BUT TODAY, HE ISN'T ALONE...

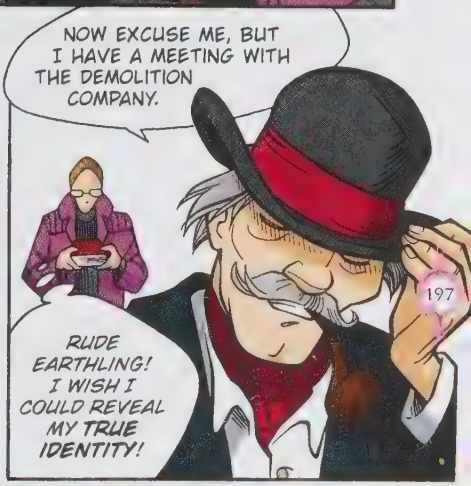
PLEASE COME IN... YES, PEOPLE SAY YOU CAN HEAR THE VILLA *SIGH*.
ACTUALLY, THERE ARE MANY *SILLY RUMORS* ABOUT THIS SINISTER PLACE.
GIVEN HOW HARD IT'S ROVING TO SELL IT, 'VE ACCEPTED THE TY'S OFFER. WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN?
JUST CEDRIC. I MANAGE THE YE OLDE BOOKSHOP.
195
AH! I'VE HEARD OF IT FROM THAT FELLOW IN PERTHWEST...
A COLLEAGUE. HE TOLD ME YOU HAVE SOME INTERESTING BOOKS TO SELL.
THAT'S RIGHT. SPEAKING OF SIGHS, IF YOU DON'T LIKE DUST, I SUGGEST HOLDING YOUR BREATH...
...BECAUSE WHEN HE WALKED IN HERE, YOUR FRIEND ALMOST CHOKED!
CL

LOST FOR WORDS, EH? AND NO POINT BEGGING NOT TO THROW EVERYTHING IN THE TRASH.
SAVE WHAT YOU CAN. TAKE WHATEVER YOU WANT AT A DISCOUNT. ANY PREFERENCES?
M-MAGIC!


ALCHEMY AND OTHER FOOLISHNESS...I GUESS JONATHAN LUDMOORE, THE FORMER OWNER, WAS KEEN ON IT TOO...

...HERE'S A WHOLE SHELF FULL OF VOLUMES ON THE SUBJECT. SEE ANYTHING INTERESTING?
M-MAYBE, BUT I THINK I NEED TO HAVE A GOOD LOOK.


I'D LIKE TO TAKE THE VOLUMES BACK TO MY BOOKSHOP TO EXAMINE THEM THERE.
IF YOU MUST. DO WHATEVER YOU WANT, BUT DO IT FAST!


NOW EXCUSE ME, BUT I HAVE A MEETING WITH THE DEMOLITION COMPANY.
RUDE EARTHLING! I WISH I COULD REVEAL MY TRUE IDENTITY!

BUT THE ORACLE OF KANDRAKAR CHOSE TO TAKE AWAY MY POWERS AND TURN ME INTO A BOOKWORM!

IF ONLY I COULD FIND A BOOK THAT MIGHT HELP ME RECOVER A SHRED OF DIGNITY...

PANT!
?
THE SIGH! IT CAME FROM UP THERE! WHAT...?
WHY DID THE LIGHT SUDDENLY RETURN TO THIS PLACE...
...SHINING ON A SINGLE BOOK?
HMM... THERE'S SOMETHING GLEAMING ON THE COVER! LET'S HAVE A LOOK...

BLAST IT! WHY DID THEY PUT IT SO HIGH UP? IT'S HARD TO SEE IT, NEVER MIND GRAB—
AH!
TH-THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THE BOOK'S WARM! BUT THE SUN IS TOO WEAK. THIS IS LIKE...
...THE WARMTH OF A BODY!

DEPENDING ON THEIR BODY TEMPERATURE, ANIMALS CAN BE DIVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS...
HOMEOTHERMIC ANIMALS, WHOSE TEMPERATURE DOESN'T CHANGE IN RELATION TO THAT OF THEIR SURROUNDINGS...
...AND HETEROTHERMIC, WHOSE TEMPERATURE IS INFLUENCED BY THE HEAT OR COLD AROUND THEM.
VRR
RR
HUMANS HAVE AN EFFICIENT MECHANISM OF THERMAL REGULATION, SO...
VRRRR
SO...
VRRRRRR
VRRRRRR

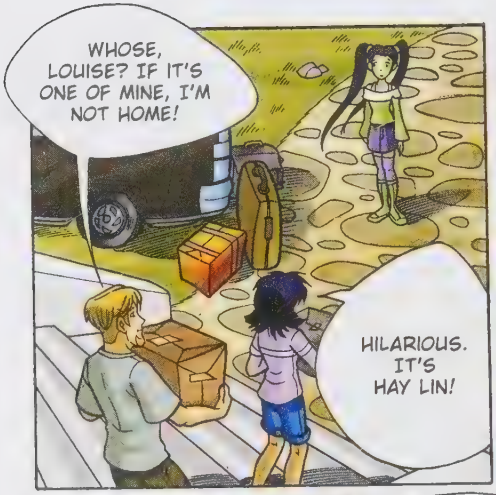
SO...SINCE THIS BOOK IS A BORE AND THE WASHING MACHINE NEXT DOOR IS TOO NOISY..
...I WILL SCIENTIFICALLY INVESTIGATE THE ISSUE BY SUNBATHING FOR A BIT!
WVRRRRR
AHHH! NOW I CAN THINK! THINGS ARE ALMOST COMPLETELY NORMAL...
IT'S GOING GREAT WITH MATT, SO APART FROM OUR POWERS GETTING OUT OF CONTROL,* I'D SAY...
WILL!
*AS SEEN IN W.I.T.C.H. CHAPTER 51
WILL, CAN I HAVE A WORD, OR DO YOU WANT ME TO BRING YOU A SWIMSUIT FIRST?
UM... HI, MOM!
DID YOU FIND THAT PHYSIOLOGY BOOK I BORROWED USEFUL?
YES! I LEARNED I SHOULDN'T HAVE PICKED WARM-BLOODED ANIMALS AS MY RESEARCH TOPIC!

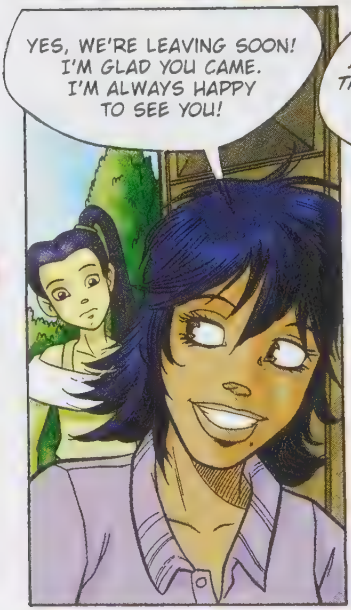
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU TIDIED UP YOUR ROOM?
LAST MONTH... OR THE ONE BEFORE THAT. HOW WAS WORK?
INSANE! I'M ABOUT TO SNAP. ANYWAY, THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT...
OH NO!
I SHOULD ACTUALLY WAIT FOR DEAN, BUT I...
IT'S THREE! THREE! GET IT?
VRRRR!
IF YOU'D TIDIED UP, YOU'D HAVE SEEN THE CLOCK ON TIME. ANYWAY...
I'M LATE! I'M SO LATE!
WILL, PLEASE. I ALREADY HAVE A HEADACHE AND...
CAN YOU HAND ME MY BACKPACK? IT SHOULD BE UNDER THERE...

VRRRRRR
HERE...BUT I HAVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT THIS BECAUSE...
YEAH, YEAH, OKAY! CAN'T IT WAIT TILL TONIGHT?
NO! I HAVE TO TELL YOU NOW! RIGHT NOW!
VRRRRR
THERE'S NO NEED TO YELL.
THERE ISN'T? YOU WON'T LISTEN!
VRRRRRR
OF COURSE! THE WASHING MACHINE IS...
FORGET THAT THING!
VRRRK
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME! IT'S IMPORTANT! YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS? IM-POR-TANT!

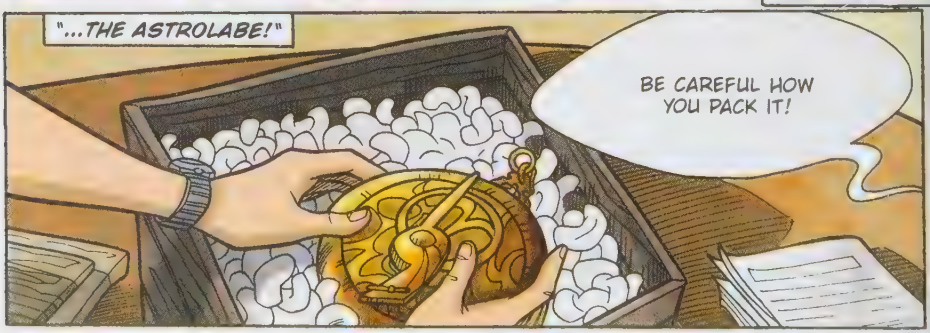
VRRR
RRRRRRRRRR
MOM, I ASKED YOU...
VRRRRRRRR
...TO PLEASE NOT...
...YELL!
BRAAAANG

I WISH I COULD YELL...
I WISH I COULD TELL HIM NOT TO GO.
I WANT TO CONVINCE HIM! I THOUGHT I WAS IMPORTANT TO HIM!
WHO ARE OU KIDDING, HAY LIN? U'RE A FOOL! ERIC NEVER SAID HE OVES YOU.
MAYBE HE'LL REALIZE HE CARES FOR YOU...AFTER ALL, ABSENCE MAKES THE HEART GROW FONDER...
BUT HE COULD FIND SOMEONE ELSE IN OPEN HILL! AND HE MIGHT START THINKING I WAS JUST...
...A FRIEND!





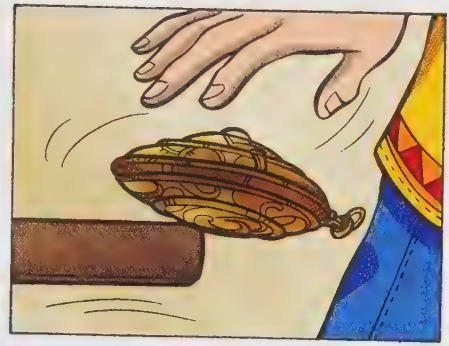
*CHAPTERS 44 AND 45

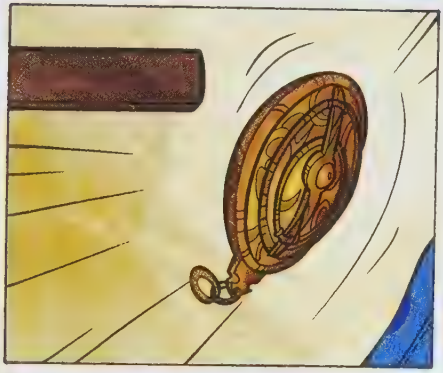


DON'T WORRY, GRANDPA. I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE IT.
ERIC! LOOK WHO'S HERE.
HEY, I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!
I WAS... WELL... WALKING ...
OHO! GREAT EXERCISE.
WHOOPS! I'M OFF! WANT A SNACK? YES? NO? LET ME KNOW!
DON'T MIND HER. I THINK SHE FEELS A BIT AWKWARD.
WHO, YOUR MOM? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WE'VE BEEN AWAY FROM EACH OTHER FOR SO LONG...NOW SHE KNOWS THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON IN THE WORLD WHO COULD SPLIT US UP AGAIN!

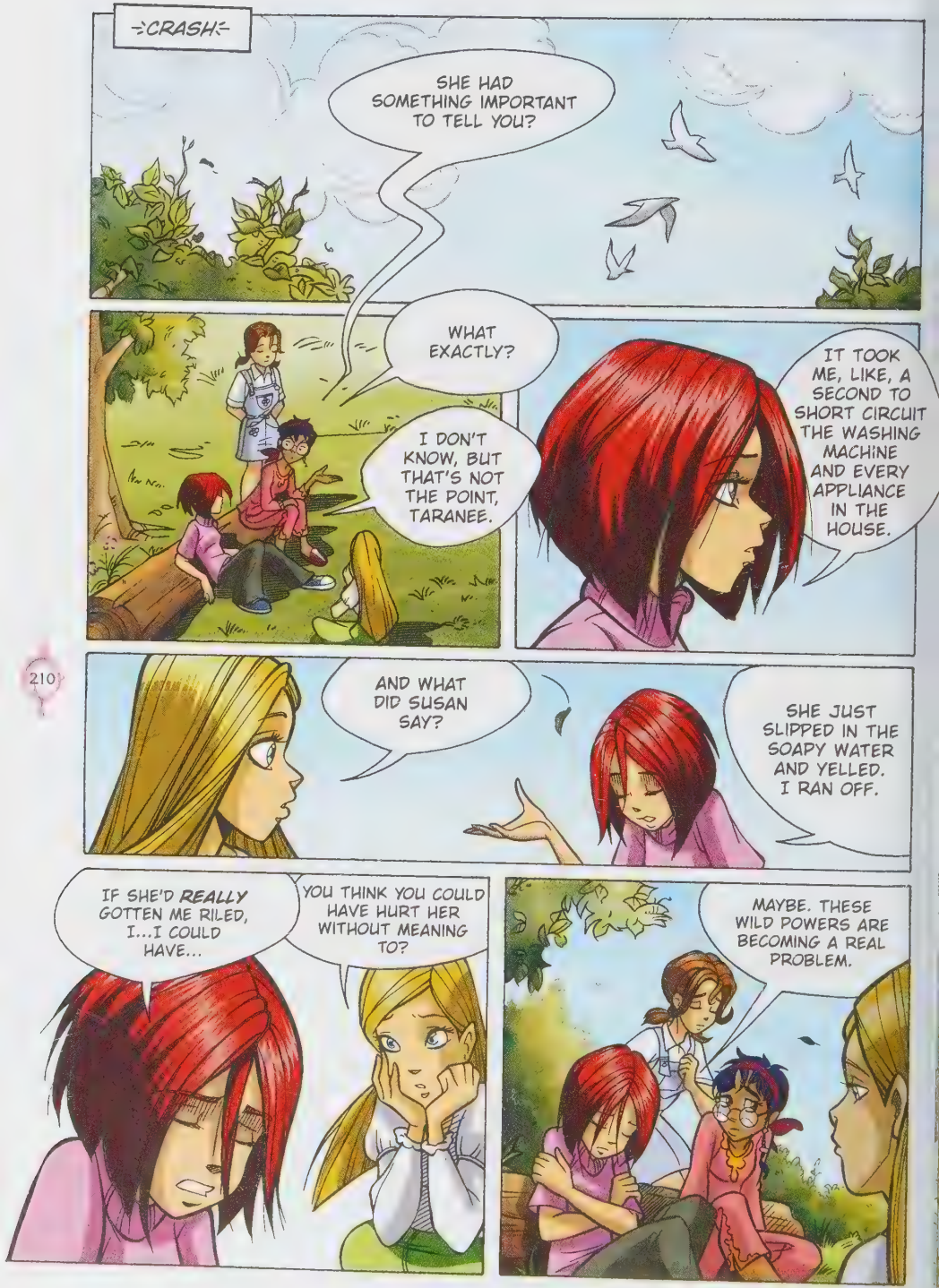
SO IT'S TRUE! SHE HATES ME!
THE THING IS, SHE'S RIGHT. ONCE, I WOULD'VE GONE ANYWHERE WITH MY PARENTS, BUT NOW...
THEN...THEN DON'T GO!
IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW HARD IT WAS TO MAKE UP MY MIND.
THE GOOD THING ABOUT MINDS IS THEY CAN BE CHANGED!
THE TRUTH IS, I DON'T THINK I CAN GO BACK.
YES YOU CAN! AND I CAN HELP YOU FIGURE IT OUT. HERE! NOW!
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE...NOW...
...BECAUSE I'VE GOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU. I...
WHO WANTS SANDWICHES?

WHOOPS! DID YOU WANT CAKE?
JUMP
HAY LIN! WAIT!
HAY LIN!

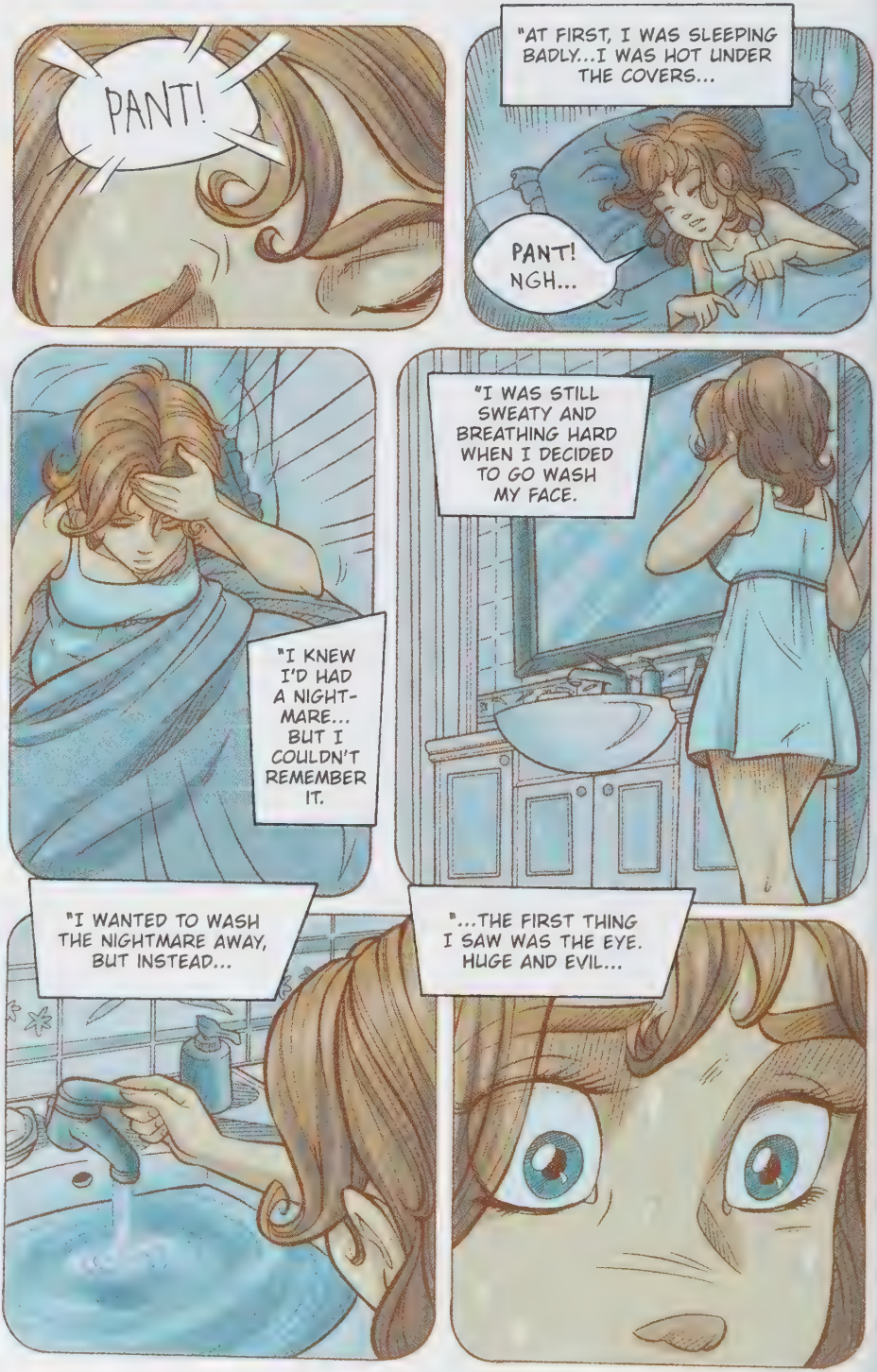


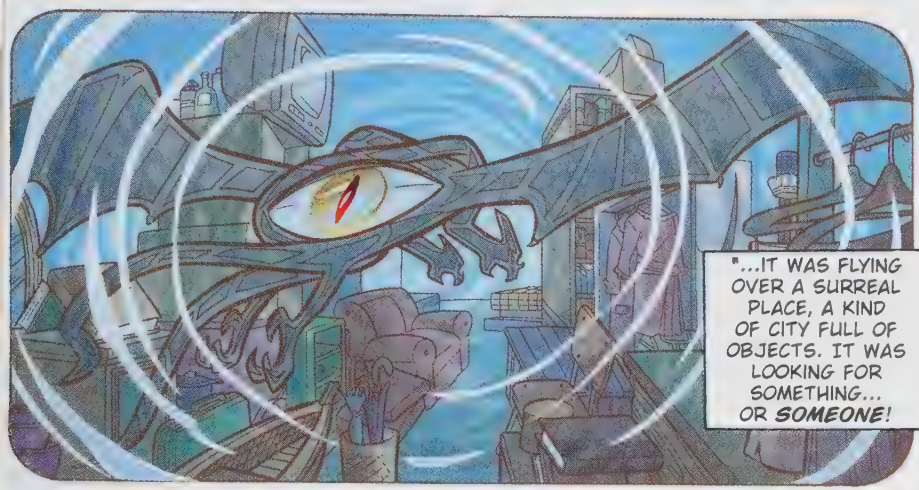


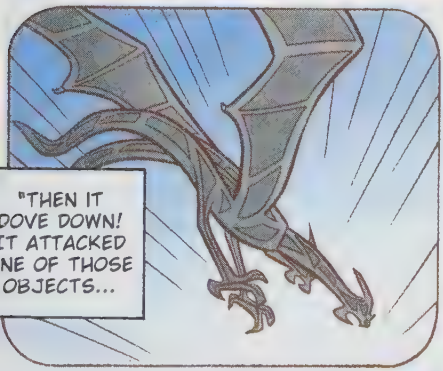
GRAAAASH

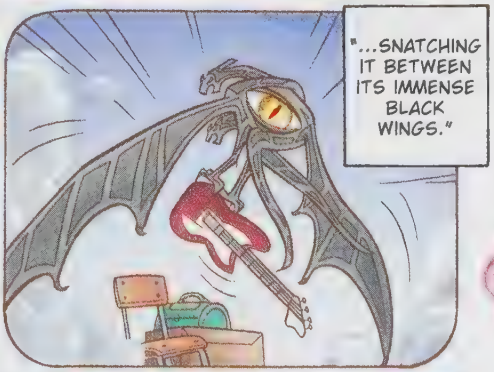

-=CRASH=-
SHE HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU?
WHAT EXACTLY?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT THAT'S NOT THE POINT, TARANEE.
IT TOOK ME, LIKE, A SECOND TO SHORT CIRCUIT THE WASHING MACHINE AND EVERY APPLIANCE IN THE HOUSE.
AND WHAT DID SUSAN SAY?
SHE JUST SLIPPED IN THE SOAPY WATER AND YELLED. I RAN OFF.
IF SHE'D REALLY GOTTEN ME RILED, I...I COULD HAVE...
YOU THINK YOU COULD HAVE HURT HER WITHOUT MEANING TO?
MAYBE. THESE WILD POWERS ARE BECOMING A REAL PROBLEM.

HE REASON WE MET
AY OUT HERE IS TO
TRY THEM OUT.
I THINK WE SHOULD TEST THEM SOMEWHERE CROWDED.
PAT
TAP
CORNELIA, ARE YOU SERIOUS?
THINK ABOUT IT, WILL. TARANEE SAYS SHE CAN HEAR PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS...
...I CAN HEAL WOUNDS, ALTHOUGH I'D RATHER NOT...
HAY LIN'S MISSING. SHE SAYS SHE CAN DETECT WHETHER SOMEONE IS LYING OR NOT...
...BUT HER ABSENCE IS JUSTIFIED. ERIC'S LEAVING TOMORROW!
THEN THERE'S IRMA, THE SYBIL WHO SEES THE FUTURE WRITTEN IN WATER!
I THINK I'VE DONE ENOUGH TESTING FOR TODAY!
?
I GOTTA TELL YOU SOMETHING, WILL, AND I HOPE YOU WON'T BE MAD AT ME...

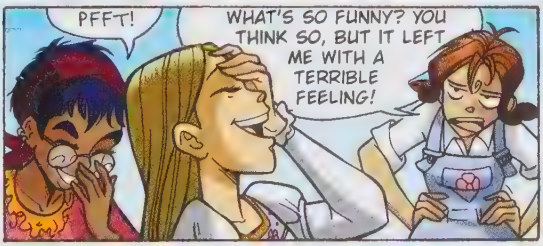

PANT!
"AT FIRST, I WAS SLEEPING BADLY...I WAS HOT UNDER THE COVERS...
PANT! NGH...
"I KNEW I'D HAD A NIGHT-MARE... BUT I COULDN'T REMEMBER IT.
"I WAS STILL SWEATY AND BREATHING HARD WHEN I DECIDED TO GO WASH MY FACE.
"I WANTED TO WASH THE NIGHTMARE AWAY, BUT INSTEAD...
"...THE FIRST THING I SAW WAS THE EYE. HUGE AND EVIL...

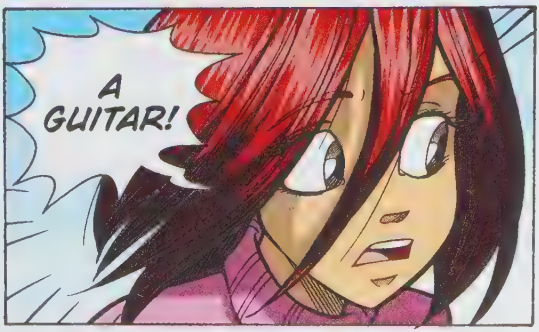

"...IT WAS FLYING OVER A SURREAL PLACE, A KIND OF CITY FULL OF OBJECTS. IT WAS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING... OR SOMEONE!


"THEN IT DOVE DOWN! IT ATTACKED ONE OF THOSE OBJECTS...


"...SNATCHING IT BETWEEN ITS IMMENSE BLACK WINGS."

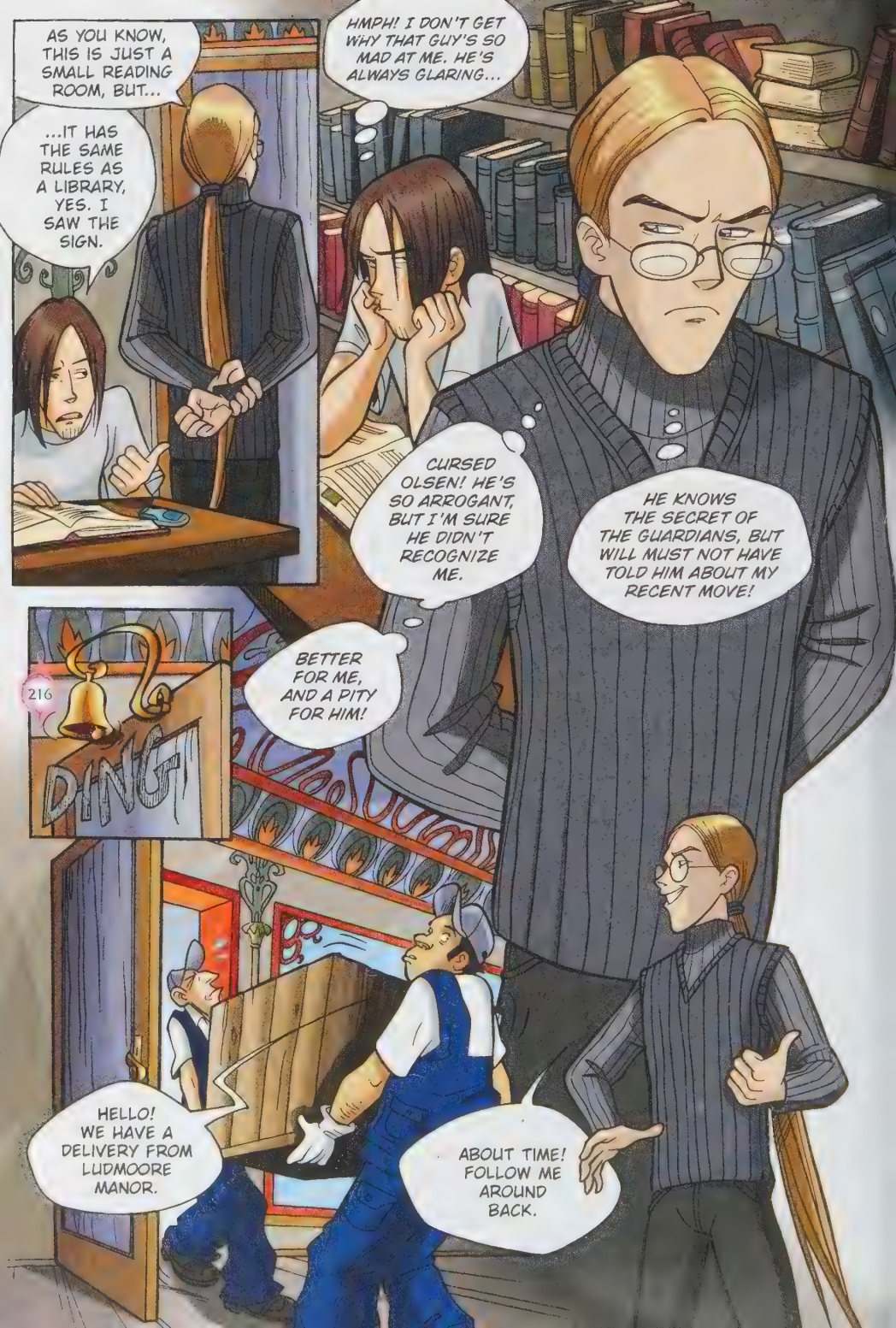
A... GUITAR?


PFFT!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY? YOU THINK SO, BUT IT LEFT ME WITH A TERRIBLE FEELING!


A GUITAR!

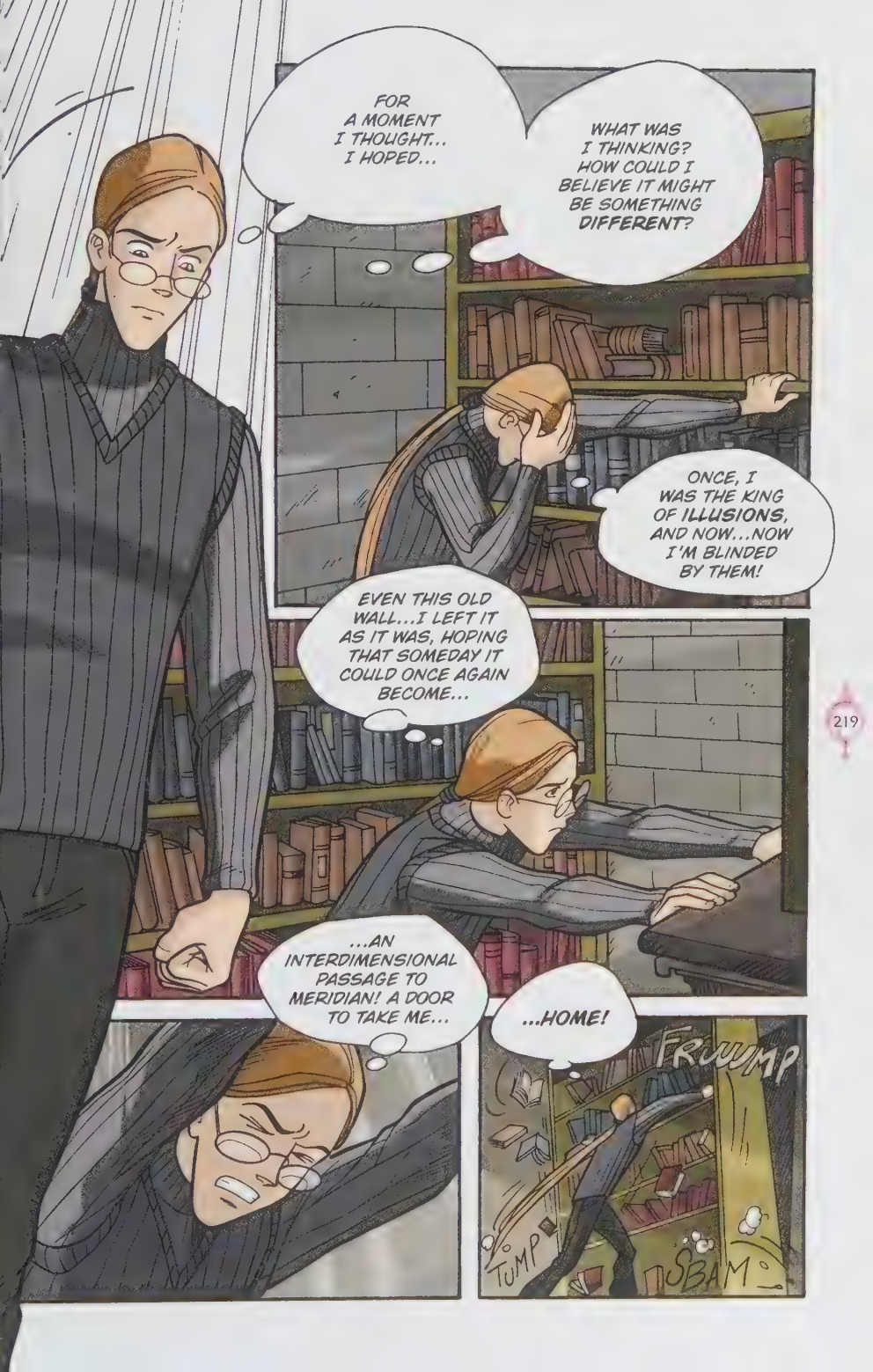
BREEP BREEP
WILL
Hello?
Yes, of course I'm okay! What's going on? I...
Sorry, I can't talk right now. I'm checking some books. I'll call you later, okay?
SC?
I SOUNDED RIDICULOUS AS USUAL!
AS IF NIGHTMARES WEREN'T ENOUGH, NOW WE HAVE FORTUNE-TELLING SINKS TOO!
I'M SORRY! BUT I NEVER SAID MATT'S NAME!

BUT MY VISIONS HAVE TO BE INTERPRETED IN SOME WAY!
OKAY, BUT WHAT'S SO CREEPY ABOUT AN EYE WITH A GUITAR?
MAYBE IT SEEMS WEIRD BECAUSE IT PLAYS...BY EAR! HEE-HEE!
WHEN I GET THE JOKE, I'LL LET YOU KNOW...
OKAY, GUYS, THAT'S ENOUGH. WHATEVER IRMA'S VISIONS MAY MEAN...
"...ALL THAT MATTERS S THAT MATT'S ALL RIGHT!"
SORRY... HERE. I'VE SWITCHED OFF MY PHONE.
THAT'S BETTER, BOY.
THAT'S MUCH BETTER!


AS YOU KNOW, THIS IS JUST A SMALL READING ROOM, BUT...
...IT HAS THE SAME RULES AS A LIBRARY, YES. I SAW THE SIGN.
HMPH! I DON'T GET WHY THAT GUY'S SO MAD AT ME. HE'S ALWAYS GLARING...
CURSED OLSEN! HE'S SO ARROGANT, BUT I'M SURE HE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME.
HE KNOWS THE SECRET OF THE GUARDIANS, BUT WILL MUST NOT HAVE TOLD HIM ABOUT MY RECENT MOVE!
BETTER FOR ME, AND A PITY FOR HIM!
DING!
HELLO! WE HAVE A DELIVERY FROM LUDMOORE MANOR.
ABOUT TIME! FOLLOW ME AROUND BACK.

HEY, NICE PLACE. THERE'S EVEN A READING ROOM.
I JUST OPENED IT. I'M WAITING FOR THE LICENSE TO OPEN AN ACTUAL CAFETERIA.
A KINDA LITERARY CAFÉ. YOUR SON WOULD LOVE IT, RIGHT, ED?
YEAH! I HOPE HE NEVER HAS TO CARRY... PANT...BOOKS!
UM, SO SIGN HERE, AND WE'LL BE OFF!
WHAT A GLOOMY PLACE...NOT SO DIFFERENT FROM LUDMOORE MAN—
I'M GETTING TIRED OF THE EARTHLINGS' STUPIDITY. THEY TALK TOO MUCH!
I MUST BE PATIENT. YES, I MUST TRY. NOW, LET'S SEE IF IT ARRIVED SAFE AND SOUND!

HERE IT IS! GOOD THING I HID IT AMONG THE OTHER BOOKS FOR TRANSPORT.
I DIDN'T WANT THE OWNER TO GROW SUSPICIOUS AND THINK HE MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING...
FRAING
MARIN
?
BUT... IT'S COLD! BLAST IT!
COLD!
SBAM


FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT... I HOPED...
WHAT WAS I THINKING? HOW COULD I BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING DIFFERENT?
ONCE, I WAS THE KING OF ILLUSIONS, AND NOW...NOW I'M BLINDED BY THEM!
EVEN THIS OLD WALL...I LEFT IT AS IT WAS, HOPING THAT SOMEDAY IT COULD ONCE AGAIN BECOME...
...AN INTERDIMENSIONAL PASSAGE TO MERIDIAN! A DOOR TO TAKE ME...
...HOME!
FRUUMP
TUMP
SBAM

CORNELIA! HAY LIN! TARANEE! IRMA! WILL! I CURSE YOU! AND I SWEAR...
...I SWEAR I'LL CRUSH YOU WITH MY OWN HANDS AND DESTROY EVERYTHING YOU LOVE!
I'LL CRUSH EVERY CERTAINTY YOU HAVE! I'LL MAKE YOUR LIVES MEANINGLESS, AS YOU DID MINE!
YES, THIS WILL BE MY REVENGE! SO I'LL START WITH YOU, LITTLE, USELESS...
...MATT...
...OLSEN!
WITH THAT, A NEW THREAT OPENS ITS EYE...

Witch
Will
Irma
Taranee
Cornelia
Hay Lin

GOOD-BYE...
HOW MANY WAYS ARE THERE TO SAY THAT WORD?
HOW MANY TIMES ARE WE FORCED TO HEAR IT? BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY...
...HOW LONG CAN WE BEAR THE SOUND OF IT?
SO, HAY LIN? ARE YOU COMING WITH US?
NO, MAMA. I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT.
YOU SURE? THE MARKET ON THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH IS ALWAYS YOUR FAVORITE!
I SAID NO!

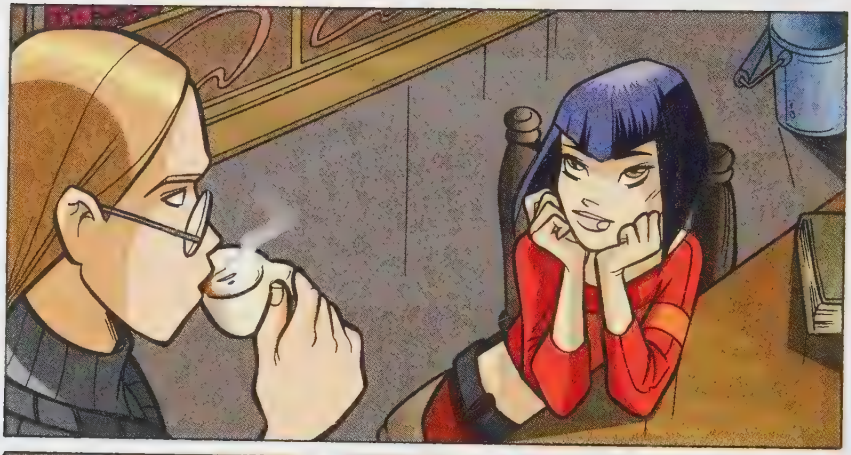
SBAAAM
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DEAR?
I D-DON'T KNOW... MAYBE IT'S THE WIND. WE'D BETTER CLOSE THE WINDOWS.
YOU TELL HIM, MY FRIEND. YOU, WHO FOUGHT ALIEN CREATURES WITH ME AND SAVED WORLDS AND UNIVERSES.
GO! TRY TO STOP HIM IF YOU CAN, BECAUSE I FAILED!
EVEN THOUGH, MAYBE, SOME THINGS...
...ARE BETTER NOT ENTRUSTED TO...
"...THE WIND!"
DLING
DLING
DLING

OTHER DOUBTS, ANOTHER SCENARIO. AT YE OLDE BOOKSHOP.
WE'RE CLOSED!
I KNOW WE'RE USUALLY OPEN ON SUNDAY MORNING, BUT WE GOT SOME NEW BOOKS AND ARE CLOSED...
224
...FOR INVENTORY.
HMM...GOOD. I WISH I COULD SAY I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU, MISS REBECCA... WHAT WAS IT? RUDOLPH?
ORUBE.
ORUBE! OF COURSE. AFTER ALL, I HAVE NO CUSTOMERS TODAY...
HIS EYES...

SO I CAN ADDRESS YOU BY YOUR REAL NAME?
...THE TONE OF HIS VOICE...
SORRY, BUT I'M HAVING TROUBLE PLAYING NICE THIS MORNING.
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D SWEAR HE'S BEEN CRYING!
HOWEVER, SINCE WE'RE ALONE, I FEEL I SHOULD BE HONEST...
THOSE BRUISED KNUCKLES... HE MUST'VE BEEN CRYING WITH ANGER AND DESPAIR!
I'M NOT MAD AT YOU SPECIFICALLY. YOU HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON ME LIKE YOUR FRIENDS DO, AND...
DLING
?

REALLY? SHE COULD AT LEAST HAVE SAID GOOD-BYE BEFORE...
WHAT AM I THINKING? HAVE I LOST MY MIND?
NO! IT MUST BE THE SICK AIR OF THIS PLANET POISONING ME.
YES, THAT MUST BE IT. IT MUST BE BECAUSE...
Y-YOU?

HOW DID YOU GET BACK IN? I DIDN'T HEAR THE BELL...
I'M GOOD AT MOVING QUIETLY WHEN I WANT TO.
AND WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE?
TAKE-OUT ITALIAN-STYLE CAPPUCCINO—A REAL TREAT!
IT'S FROM THE BAR NEXT DOOR. EVER BEEN THERE?
NO. I'M NOT INTERESTED IN EXPLORING THE AREA...
...OR THE CITY OR THE WHOLE PLANET, FOR THAT MATTER.
YOU TALK AS IF YOU WERE JUST PASSING THROUGH.
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?
TASTE IT. I DISCOVERED IT A WHILE AGO WHILE WALKING AROUND HEATHERFIELD...
...WONDERING WHAT I WAS DOING IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.



THAT'S AWFUL!
YES.

THAT WAS MY REACTION THE FIRST TIME I DRANK IT TOO.

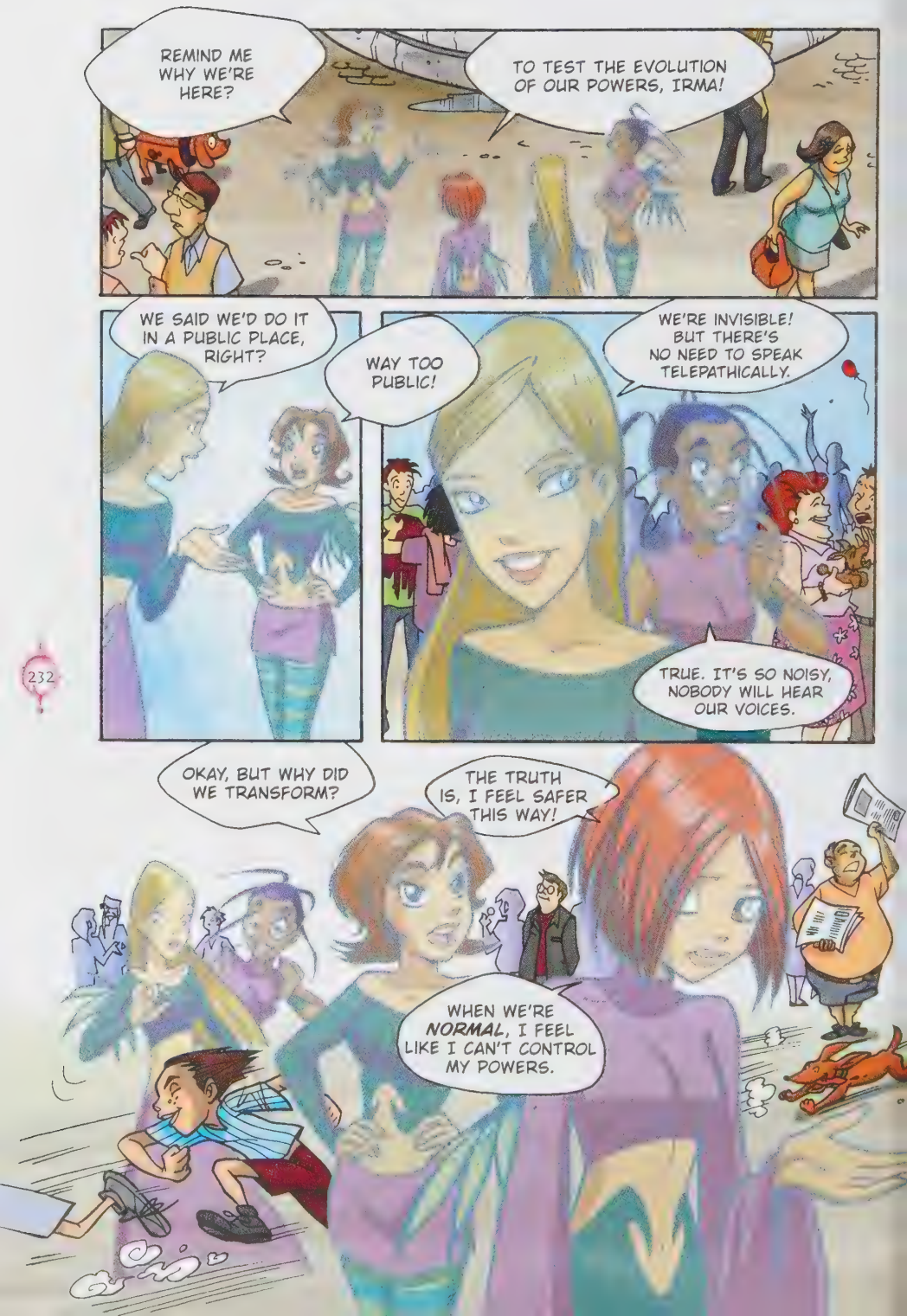
HA-HA-HA!

PFFT!

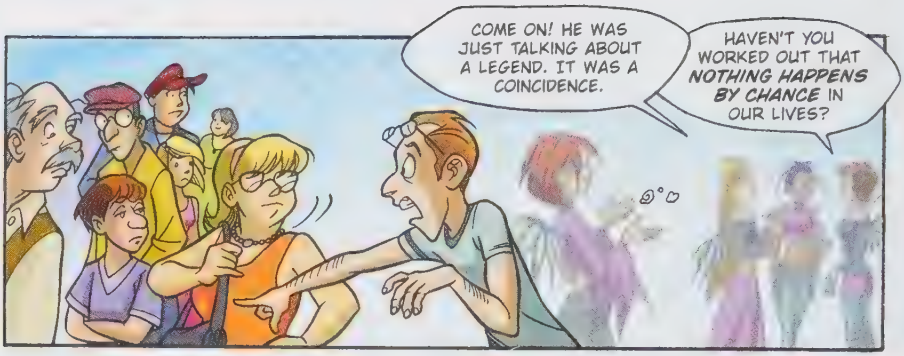
AHEM!
ALL RIGHT, I'LL REPHRASE THE QUESTION. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
SOME OLD BOOKS!
MORE RESEARCH FOR YOUR MAGAZINE?
NO. I'M JUST CURIOUS.
THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE, I READ SOME TEXTS ABOUT SOMEONE WHO LIVED IN HEATHERFIELD MANY YEARS AGO...
...A CERTAIN LUDMOORE!
I SEE...BUT THE BOOK-SHOP IS IN DISARRAY. YOU PROBABLY WON'T FIND THOSE BOOKS ON THE SAME SHELVES.

HOW ABOUT THIS. LET ME RETURN THE FAVOR OF THE CAPPUCCINO ...
...AND I'LL MAKE TIME TO LOOK FOR THE BOOKS YOU WANT AND SET THEM ASIDE. OKAY?
OKAY!
LADIES FIRST. THE ONLY THING I APPRECIATE ABOUT HUMANS IS POLITENESS.
ABOUT HUMANS FROM WHICH CENTURY?
FAIR POINT. BUT SPEAKING OF THE PAST, TELL ME ABOUT THIS...WHAT DID YOU CALL HIM?
LUDMOORE...
JONATHAN LUDMOORE!
AS SOON AS CEDRIC LEAVES, SOMETHING MOVES IN THE BACK ROOM OF HIS BOOKSHOP...

STRAIGHT AWAY, A DISTURBING IMAGE APPEARS IN THE CLEAR SKY OF HEATHERFIELD.
A HUGE EYES LOOMS OVER THE CITY! IT OBSERVES. IT MOVES.
IT'S LOOKING FOR SOMETHING. OR MAYBE...
...SOMEONE!
...IT NOTICES FOUR INVISIBLE GIRLS IN THE CROWDED SUNDAY MARKET.
IT WATCHES WITHOUT BEING SEEN. IT SEES WHAT OTHERS CANNOT. AND FINALLY...


REMIND ME WHY WE'RE HERE?
TO TEST THE EVOLUTION OF OUR POWERS, IRMA!
WE SAID WE'D DO IT IN A PUBLIC PLACE, RIGHT?
WAY TOO PUBLIC!
WE'RE INVISIBLE! BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO SPEAK TELEPATHICALLY.
TRUE. IT'S SO NOISY, NOBODY WILL HEAR OUR VOICES.
OKAY, BUT WHY DID WE TRANSFORM?
THE TRUTH IS, I FEEL SAFER THIS WAY!
WHEN WE'RE NORMAL, I FEEL LIKE I CAN'T CONTROL MY POWERS.

AND IF YOU DO ANY DAMAGE, YOU CAN FIX IT WITHOUT HAVING TO DO IT AS WILL!
TRUE. BEING IN COSTUME HAS ITS ADVANTAGES.
WHY ARE YOU SO GRUMPY, IRMA?
I'M JUST NERVOUS! I KEEP THINKING ABOUT THAT GUY... LUDMOORE!
WHAT IS THERE TO SAY APART FROM WHAT MR. COLLINS TOLD ORUBE?
FIRST OF ALL, HE DISCOVERED THAT HEATHERFIELD IS AT THE INTERSECTION OF FIVE ELEMENTAL FORCES.
WHICH EXPLAINS WHY WE MET HERE!
COLLINS MENTIONED THE WALL TOO. SO?
HE TALKED ABOUT WEIRD MONSTERS EVERY-WHERE! WITHOUT REALIZING, HE MEANT MERIDIAN— AND US!


COME ON! HE WAS JUST TALKING ABOUT A LEGEND. IT WAS A COINCIDENCE.
HAVEN'T YOU WORKED OUT THAT NOTHING HAPPENS BY CHANCE IN OUR LIVES?

OUR MEETING! THE FACT THAT OUR POWERS ARE TESTING US! IT'S ALL CONNECTED!

SEEING THE FUTURE HAS MADE YOU PARANOID.
LISTEN, BLONDIE...
HEY!

BEFORE FLIPPING OUT... LOOK WHO'S THERE!

WE COULD FOLLOW THEM! WHADDAYA THINK?
THAT YOU'RE NUTS AND THAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING IMPORTANT!

THIS ISN'T THE PLACE FOR THAT STUFF. BESIDES, THIS IS IMPORTANT TOO...
...I GOTTA FIND OUT WHAT MATT WOULD LIKE FOR OUR ANNIVER-SARY...
A LIFE-AND-DEATH ISSUE!
LET'S GO, WILL! AT LEAST I'LL BE AWAY FROM CORNELIA.
THEY'RE SPLITTING UP! TARANEE, HURRY!
OH NO! PETER'S LEAFING THROUGH AN OLD ICE SKATING MAGAZINE.
SO?
THERE'S A PICTURE OF ME IN IT THAT THEY TOOK WHEN I WON REGIONALS.
I HAVE TO DESTROY IT! I LOOK AWFUL IN THAT PICTURE!
STOP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
OLD MAGAZINE

HOT DOG
HE SAW IT! TARA, READ HIS THOUGHTS! I HAVE TO KNOW WHAT HE'S THINKING!
FORGET IT! I'M NOT READING MY BROTHER'S MIND.
PLEASE!
NO!
C'MON!
NOOO!
PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE!
OOF! JUST THIS ONCE. WE ARE HERE TO TEST OUR POWERS...
WELL? WHY THAT FACE? DID YOU HEAR HIS THOUGHTS?
UM— NO...
...BUT I HEARD YOURS!
SKA

HOW MUCH IS THIS?
SIXTEEN FIFTY.
UM...
?
YAY!
WHAT'S UP?
HE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY THAT CD! GET IT?

NOW I JUST GOTTA CHECK THE TITLE AND...
AAAH!
FIRE! FIRE!
HOT DOG
HELP!
AAAH!
HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
WHOOPS! FORGOT WE'RE INVISIBLE...
PEOPLE ARE QUICK TO PANIC! WHERE'S MATT?
?

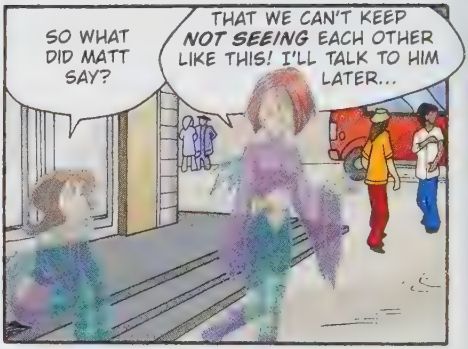
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? THE FIRE'S SPREADING FAST!
YEAH. TOO FAST!
LOOK! IT'S REFLECTED IN THAT PUDDLE!
I CAN'T SEE A THING! -COUGH- -COUGH- PLEASE HURRY!
WAAM!
239
B-BUT YOU CAN'T NOT SEE IT! IT SHOULD BE RIGHT...
...THERE!
WOOOSHH!

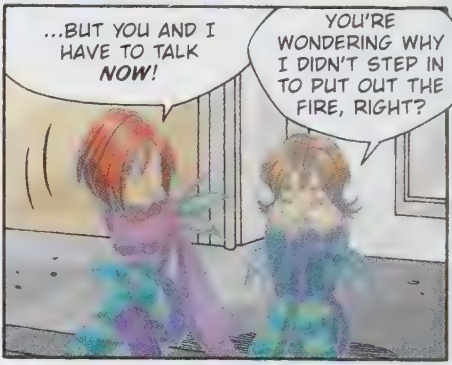
AAAH!
WOOOSH
PETER! WHERE ARE YOU? IT'S ME...
...IT'S MATT!
AH!
SBRAANG

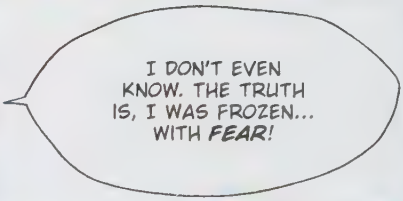
I THINK IT'S TIME TO END THIS!
THIS WIND HAS TO STOP RIGHT NOW!
WOOUP
HAY LIN! WE THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T COMING!
I DECIDED TO STOP FEELING SORRY FOR MYSELF.
241
GOOD JOB! THE FIRE SHOULD STOP SPREADING NOW. I'LL ABSORB AS MUCH AS I CAN!
WA A AAMP
PETER'S AT THE SIDE OF THE SQUARE AND IS OKAY, BUT THE FIRE'S STILL BLAZING!
WHERE ARE IRMA AND WILL?

"I THINK THEY'RE LOOKING FOR MATT!"
I'M SURROUNDED BY FLAMES! IT'S LIKE THEY HAVE A LIFE OF THEIR OWN!
WOOOSH
GRRUNK
AAAH!
WHAT HAPPENED?
NOTHING SPECIAL! YOU'VE BEEN SAVED BY AN ENERGY SHIELD.
WILL? IS THAT YOU?
YES. DON'T WORRY! I KNOW YOU CAN'T SEE ME, BUT MAYBE...
...YOU CAN FEEL ME!

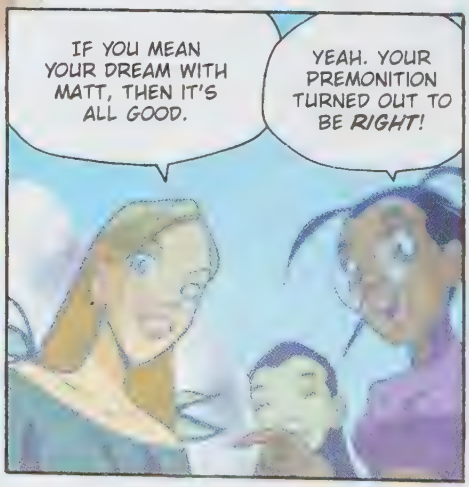
LATER, IT'S TIME TO RECAP THE SITUATION...
...AND UNDERSTAND.
IT'S CRAZY! I MEAN, I WAS SURE I'D BURNED MY ARM A LITTLE...
...BUT NOW THERE'S NOTHING!
THAT WAS YOU, RIGHT?
OF COURSE! DID YOU NOTICE PETER BOUGHT MY MAGAZINE?
THE ONE WITH YOUR PHOTO? I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO DESTROY IT.
I CHANGED MY MIND! I MIGHT NOT KNOW WHAT HE'S THINKING, BUT I CAN USE MY IMAGINATION.


SO WHAT DID MATT SAY?
THAT WE CAN'T KEEP *NOT SEEING* EACH OTHER LIKE THIS! I'LL TALK TO HIM LATER...


...BUT YOU AND I HAVE TO TALK *NOW*!
YOU'RE WONDERING WHY I DIDN'T STEP IN TO PUT OUT THE FIRE, RIGHT?


I DON'T EVEN KNOW. THE TRUTH IS, I WAS FROZEN... WITH *FEAR*!

WHAT DID YOU SEE IN THAT PUDDLE?
FORGET IT. YOU AND THE OTHERS ALREADY MADE FUN OF ME ONCE...


IF YOU MEAN YOUR DREAM WITH MATT, THEN IT'S ALL GOOD.
YEAH. YOUR PREMONITION TURNED OUT TO BE *RIGHT*!

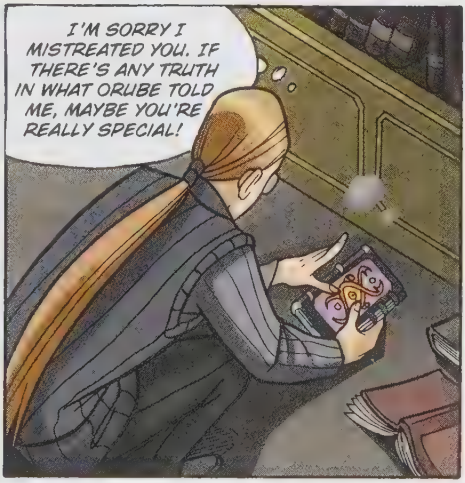
MATT WAS IN DANGER, BUT THE INVISIBLE WOMAN SAVED HIM. END OF THE NIGHTMARE.
YOU THINK? THEN LET'S TALK ABOUT THE FIRE! IT WASN'T EXACTLY NORMAL!
YOU TELL THEM, TARANEE! FIRE IS YOUR ELEMENT.
ACTUALLY, IT WAS PRETTY BAD...BUT IT WAS WINDY, AND THE MARKET'S FULL OF FLAMMABLE STUFF...
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PROVE? DID YOU SEE A PYROMANIAC?
I DUNNO WHAT I SAW! BUT WHATEVER IT WAS, IT WAS SPYING ON ME!
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE EYE FROM YOUR PREMONITION, RIGHT?
YES, BUT THIS TIME, IT WASN'T A DREAM. IT WAS WATCHING ME, WILL! TRYING TO READ MY MIND!
I WAS TERRIFIED! I COULD FEEL ITS GAZE ON ME. BUT NOT FEELING IT NOW...
...DOESN'T REASSURE ME AT ALL!

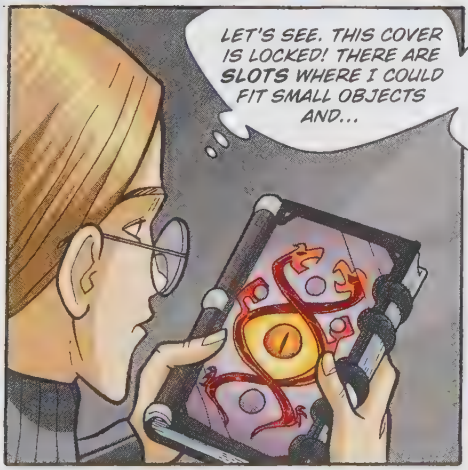
YES. DON'T WORRY...
YE OLDE BOOK SHOP
...I'LL HAVE THOSE BOOKS READY FOR YOU BY TUESDAY.
NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND, I JUST NEED YOUR NAME...
You're right. I didn't introduce myself...
...BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW ME. I'M MATT OLSEN!
CLICK
WILL MUST'VE TOLD HIM! JUST AS WELL. FROM NOW ON, WE'LL LAY OUR CARDS ON THE TABLE...

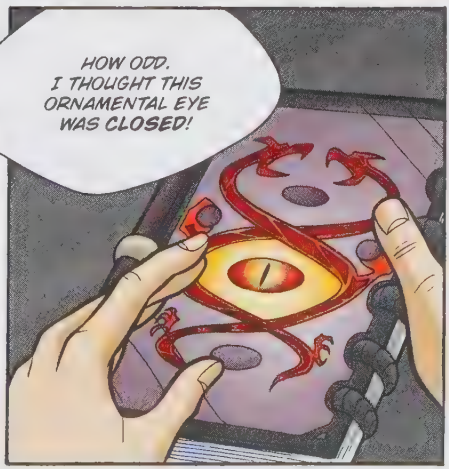
THE BOY CLEARLY DOESN'T THINK I'M DANGEROUS, OR HE WOULDN'T KEEP COMING TO THE BOOKSHOP.

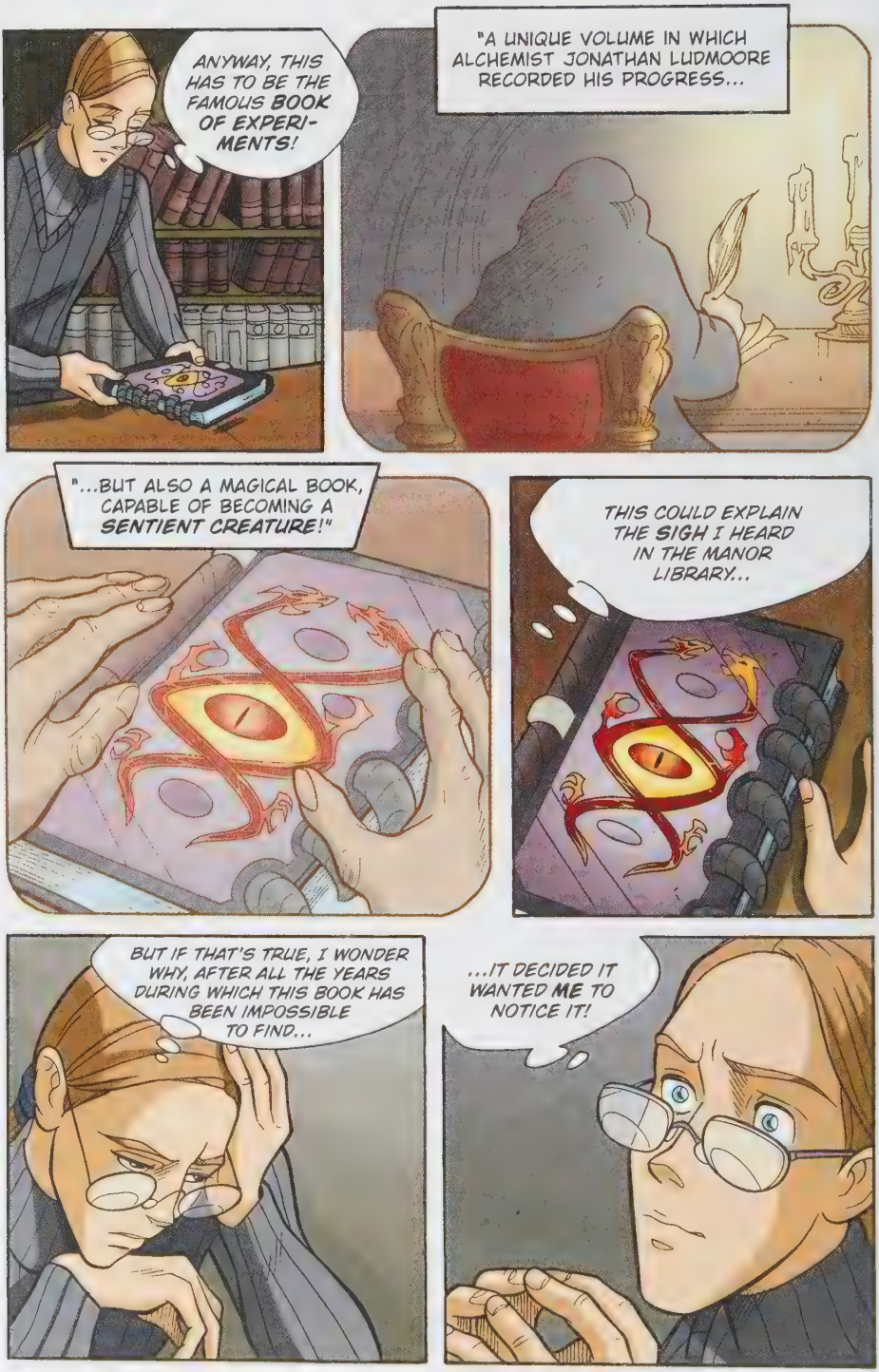
WHY AM I SURPRISED? AFTER ALL, MINE IS THE BEST STOCKED BOOKSHOP IN TOWN. ONLY I HAVE...

CLICK
...CERTAIN BOOKS!


I'M SORRY I MISTREATED YOU. IF THERE'S ANY TRUTH IN WHAT ORUBE TOLD ME, MAYBE YOU'RE REALLY SPECIAL!


LET'S SEE. THIS COVER IS LOCKED! THERE ARE SLOTS WHERE I COULD FIT SMALL OBJECTS AND...


HOW ODD. I THOUGHT THIS ORNAMENTAL EYE WAS CLOSED!


ANYWAY, THIS HAS TO BE THE FAMOUS BOOK OF EXPERIMENTS!
"A UNIQUE VOLUME IN WHICH ALCHEMIST JONATHAN LUDMOORE RECORDED HIS PROGRESS...
"...BUT ALSO A MAGICAL BOOK, CAPABLE OF BECOMING A SENTIENT CREATURE!"
THIS COULD EXPLAIN THE SIGH I HEARD IN THE MANOR LIBRARY...
BUT IF THAT'S TRUE, I WONDER WHY, AFTER ALL THE YEARS DURING WHICH THIS BOOK HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND...
...IT DECIDED IT WANTED ME TO NOTICE IT!

SPACK
?
TH-THE LIGHT! IT WENT OUT!
WHEN IT DID, I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING—LIKE A NOISE...
...OR EVEN A SENTENCE IN THE DIALECT OF METAMOOR!
COME ON, CEDRIC! I KNOW YOU MISS HOME, BUT THIS IS RIDICUL—
*I'M PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

M-ME TOO...
AT LEAST, I THINK SO!
YOU CAN UNDERSTAND ME, RIGHT? YOU KNOW MY LANGUAGE, LIKE I KNOW YOURS!
YES!
SO...DO YOU HAVE A NAME? WHO ARE YOU?
YOU STILL DON'T GET IT? I'M YOUR LUCKY CHARM, AND...
...YOU ARE MINE!
THE END

Read on in Volume 14!

Witch
Will
Irma
Taranee
Cornelia
Hay Lin

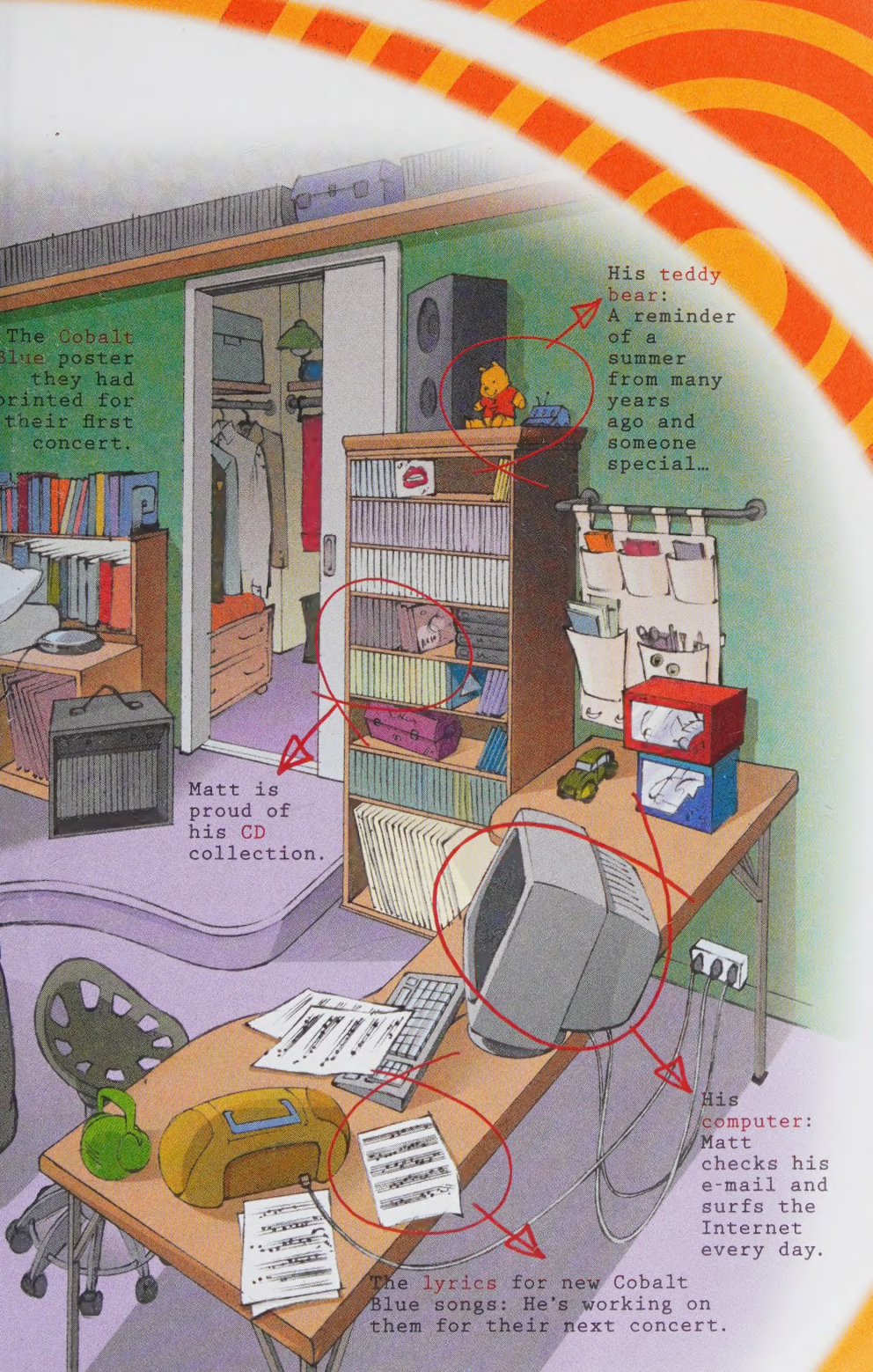
Discover the room of...

Explore Matt's Room

He loves music, sports, and much more.
Let's explore Matt's room to discover his secrets.

- Reserved and pretty **shy** with girls, Matt tends to blush a lot. He's the guitarist of **Cobalt Blue**, Sheffield Institute's most popular band.
- You can find him at the **pet shop** that belongs to his grandpa, Mr. Olsen, where he "pretends" to help out, or at home with a friend (usually Joel) **playing guitar** and listening to music. He plays basketball with Peter: They're on the same team.
- He's a bit lazy and loves spending the afternoon browsing Heatherfield's **music shops** looking for rare CDs.
- He's in love with **Will**, and it was hard for him to find the courage to declare his feelings. Their relationship is at a crossroads! Read the story to find out what happened.
- Matt is a senior at Heatherfield High School. His zodiac sign is **Leo**.
- Some mornings he looks in the mirror and is pleased with his look. Other days, he'd like to empty his wardrobe, join the gym, and become like **his cousin Sean**.
- He'd love to travel the world, and his **dream** is to become a musician.

Discover Matt's Room


The Cobalt Blue poster they had printed for their first concert.
His teddy bear: A reminder of a summer from many years ago and someone special…
Matt is proud of his CD collection.
His computer: Matt checks his e-mail and surfs the Internet every day.
The lyrics for new Cobalt Blue songs: He's working on them for their next concert.

Part V: The Book of Elements • Volume 1

13

Series Created by Elisabetta Gnone
Comic Art Direction: Alessandro Barbucci, Barbara Canepa

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Bruna

Will

An Enemy Redeemed?

The girls are growing into their powers but maybe not quickly enough...? As their elemental magic swells, they begin losing control of their frighteningly increased abilities. Possibly even more terrifying, though, is that Cedric is back... and getting a second chance from the Oracle?! How will the girls cope when one of their oldest and most dangerous foes sets up shop in Heatherfield...?

Tecna

Aisha

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